

**COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

March 19, 2025

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitation Team: Donna Silverberg & 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](mailto:colby@dsconsult.co).*

**Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes** – TMT Members approved the official meeting minutes facilitator's summary from the March 5 meeting.

**Official March Water Supply Forecasts (WSF)** – Chris Runyan, Reclamation, reported the official March water supply forecast for Hungry Horse Dam (HGH). The March through July WSF was 1,640 kaf, or 78% of average; April through August was 1,610 kaf, or 79% of average; May through July was 1,287 kaf, or 77% of average; and May through September was 1,388 kaf, or 78% of average.

Chris noted that the forecast increased about 1% since last month, remaining below average. Minimum flows downstream of HGH are set at 3,410 cfs at Columbia Falls and 750 cfs on the South Fork below the dam. Official end of April projections provided in early March showed an elevation at HGH around 3,519.0 feet (currently projected at 3,521 feet).

Lisa Wright, Corps, reported the March water supply forecasts for Corps of Engineers projects:

- **The Dalles (TDA)**: NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 75,123 kaf, or 84% of average.
- **Lower Granite (LWG)**: NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 19,540 kaf, or 98% of average.
- **Libby (LIB)**: Corps runoff forecast April to August is 5,004 kaf, or 82% of average.
- **Dworshak (DWR)**: NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 2,194 kaf, or 89% of average.

In response to a query on minimum flows at LIB, the Corps confirmed that discharge is hanging around the minimum of 4,000 cfs. After discussion on whether current conditions affect WSF and decisional (FRM) thresholds, Action Agencies confirmed that the current forecast is above the normal dry year trigger. The trigger is officially set by the May WSF (3<sup>rd</sup> working day of May) and official FRM elevations are posted after the April WSF (April 3). With a rise in WSF it may be possible to see an improved Mid-C flow with some FRM draft, this will become clearer after April 10.

**Chum Operation** – Lisa provided an update on the current conditions and forecasts for chum. Complete operation details are posted to the TMT website. Bonneville Dam (BON) at 0800 hours this morning had a tailwater elevation of 13.8 feet, with a total outflow of 158.8 kcfs. Lisa noted that the BON hourly data is missing from the Corps' public website; they are actively looking to repair this, data should populate soon.

The RFC inflow forecast over the next 10-days shows a low of 140 kcfs and a high of 165 kcfs by the end of the period. Long-term forecasts continue to indicate below average conditions. TDA WSF currently has increased to just under 82 maf, or 92% of average; the official April forecast will be available in a couple weeks. Lisa reported no updates for fish.

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Tony Norris, BPA, reported rises in the Snake and Willamette rivers; the significant amount of unregulated water in the system is propping up the chum tailwater. Grand Coulee (GCL) releases are tracking the Hanford Reach minimum, slowing draft at Lake Roosevelt. BPA expects this to continue through April 10. Chris added that the slight increase in forecast at TDA may shift the GCL FRM down; Reclamation will continue to monitor.

**Spill Priority List (SPL)** – Dan Turner, Corps, presented the draft Spring 2025 SPL, noting that the Corps is seeking feedback from Salmon Mangers. This SPL remains unchanged from the end of spring spill last year. Salmon Managers were offered more time to review the SPL and will provide feedback at the next TMT meeting (April 2). Dan noted that the SPL is a living document, and the order can be changed and updated through the spill season.

**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 April 2, 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 Lisa Wright, Corps, and facilitated by Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting. A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

**1. Review Summary and Minutes**

a. March 5 Summary and Minutes

- March 5 Minutes
  - Approved

**2. Official Water Supply Forecasts – *Chris Runyan, BOR; and Lisa Wright, Corps***

*Reclamation*

- Hungry Horse – March Final Forecast
  - Forecast increased by 1% since last month, and the forecast remains below average.
  - March – July
    - 1640 kaf
    - 78% of average
  - Apr – Aug
    - 1610 kaf
    - 79% of average
  - May – July
    - 1287 kaf
    - 77% of average
  - May – September
    - 1388 kaf
    - 78% of average
- Minimum Flows Downstream of Hungry Horse (April – August Volume)
  - Columbia Falls
    - 3410 cfs

- Below HGH (South Fork)
  - 750 cfs
- Forecasted End of April Forebay
  - Elevation (based on March 4): ~3519 ft
  - Elevation (based on today): ~3521 ft

Corps

- WSF finalized March 5
- The Dalles
  - April to August Runoff Volume
    - 75,123 kaf
    - 84% of average
- Lower Granite
  - April to July Volume
    - 19,540 kaf
    - 98% of average
- Libby
  - April to August Runoff Volume
    - 5,004 kaf
    - 82% of average
- Dworshak (Clearwater Fork)
  - April to July Runoff Volume
    - 2,194 kaf
    - 89% of average

Brian Marotz, MT, asked if the minimum flow (discharge) was still at 4 kcfs at LIB.

Wright said that was correct.

Tony Norris, BPA, asked if Marotz was looking for the minimum flow.

Marotz said he was just wondering if the discharge was still hanging at that level or was higher.

Norris said yes, probably until VarQ flows started. He said that we are well below there.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, said that Wright had highlighted that the water supply forecasts were from a couple of weeks ago. He thanked her for flagging that. He said that it was his understanding that we have gotten some precipitation during the last couple of weeks that had changed those numbers generally in an upward trajectory. He said that he was not asking Wright for the updated numbers but if the current conditions change the water

supply above some decisional thresholds. For TDA, he asked if we are above a low water year criteria currently. He also asked how the current water supplies in the Snake Basin apply to the FRM shifting thresholds.

Aaron Marshall, Corps, said that with respect to TDA Water Supply Forecast (WSF), we are now above the “dry year” trigger of 74.5 maf. He said that we are at about 82 maf. He said that the dry year triggers are set officially by the May WSF, but right now we are above that trigger.

Silverberg asked if the May forecast comes out in May, or if it came out in April.

Marshall said that the May forecast will be official on the third working day of May.

Norris said that we no longer have any operations that are triggered by that forecast, and we were above it on the March final forecast as well. He said that since we no longer have a Non-Treaty Storage Agreement, we no longer have Dry Year Storage to release based on that trigger. He said that the LIB and HGH local WSF are now the trigger for their Summer storage operations. He also noted that Hesse had another question regarding FRM and the April final forecast comes out April 3 and official FRM elevations will be posted three days (or so) after that. He said that with the rise in WSF it is expected that we will that the April 30 GCL elevation will undoubtedly go down. He said that it is possible that after April 10 we would see an improved Mid-C flow with some FRM draft, but we have still got a couple of weeks to go before that final forecast is posted.

**3. Chum Operations - Lisa Wright, 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: April 10

a. Bonneville Dam (BON) – Hourly Data – *Wright*

- There were no data available on the BON public project hourly data website. The Corps was actively looking to repair, and the data should start populating soon.
- Tailwater Elevation (Hour 0800): 13.8 feet
- Outflow: 158.8 kcfs

b. NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (10 day) – *Wright*

- Flows will remain above the outflow required for the minimum tailwater elevation.
- BON Inflow Forecasted:
  - Low: 140 kcfs
  - High: 165 kcfs

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

- The forecast is below average for the foreseeable future.

d. TDA Water Supply Forecast

- Forecast: 82 maf
- Percent of Average: 92%
- Picked up since the official March WSF and the official April WSF will be posted in a couple of weeks.

e. BPA Update – *Norris*

- The Snake River and the Willamette River are up so there is quite a lot of unregulated water in the system that is propping up the chum tailwater.
- GCL releases are tracking the Hanford Reach minimum and has slowed the draft at Lake Roosevelt significantly.
- Moving forward BPA expects to track the Hanford Reach minimum through April 10, when the chum operation ends.

f. Reclamation Update – *Runyan*

- Noted the fact that TDA forecast had gone up a little bit.
- It still had the 10-day QPF in it so depending on how it plays out it might shift GCL's FRM down a little bit from where it is now.
- Something to keep TMT's eye on.

**4. Spill Priority List – *Dan Turner***

[https://public.crohms.org/tmt/documents/spill-priority/Spill-Priority-List\\_2025\\_0403\\_0621\\_SPRING.pdf](https://public.crohms.org/tmt/documents/spill-priority/Spill-Priority-List_2025_0403_0621_SPRING.pdf)

a. Spring 2025

- Turner explained that the Spring Spill Priority List for 2025 was the same order as the Spring Spill Priority List in effect for the end of Spring Spill last year.
- Reminder: There were discussions and changes made April of last year to the Spring Spill Priority List last year to make it easier to read and to change some interpretations. Turner said that the current list is what was landed on at the end of last year.
- Turner asked if there was any feedback. He said that the Corps consults with Salmon Managers (SM) to make sure the order to the Spring Spill List looks right and if there have been any changes since last year.
  - Turner reminded SM that the list is a living document so if they needed more time to look it over that would be possible.

- There was a request to put the list on the agenda in two weeks to allow the SM time to think about it.

Erick Van Dyke, OR, thanked Turner for providing the SM time to think a little harder about this. He said that he appreciated the opportunity to get back to Turner with recommendations if there were any.

➤ The Spill Priority List will be on the April 2 agenda.

## 5. Set agenda for next meeting – April 2, 2025

Meeting Location: Webex

- a. Spill Priority List
- b. April FRM Shift Estimates
- c. Final Chum Update
- d. Operations Review
- e. Expected Flows for April at GCL (requested by Charles Morrill, WA)

### Today's Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers	Lisa Wright, Aaron Marshall
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
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, Tom Conning, Jessika Solleder, Alexis Mills, Chris Peery, Michelle Yuen, Eric Chow

BPA – Jaden Boehme

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

DS Consulting – Donna Silverberg (Facilitator), Colby Mills

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CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

EKI – Eve James

Chelan PUD – Jay Fintz, Kate von Reis Baron

Snohomish PUD – Mike Shapley

PGE – Phil Devol

Energy DPS – Josh Rasmussen

Vitol – Ryan Russell

NPCC – Kate Self