

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

June 11, 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://public.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 from the May 28 meeting, and the minutes and facilitator's summary from June 4.

**Treaty Fishing** – Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, presented SOR 2025-C1 (posted to the [TMT agenda](#)) for the summer 2025 Tribal treaty fishery. The request on behalf of the CRITFC Tribes is to operate Bonneville (BON) and The Dalles (TDA) pools within a 1.5-foot band and the John Day (JDA) pool within a 2-foot band from June 16 at 0600 hours through June 19 at 1800 hours, and from June 23 at 0600 hours through June 25 at 1800 hours.

The current fish forecast shows about 38,000 adult summer upper Columbia Chinook (below average), 350,000 sockeye (near average), and 11,800 total steelhead combined. Kyle reminded the group that treaty fishing generates opportunities for subsistence and commercial fishing for Tribes. He noted that the below average fish forecast could lead to a shorter season (possibly ending mid-July).

CRITFC will launch net flights on the lower Columbia mid-week; data will be shared with the Corps 2-7 days afterwards. The CRITFC webpage has information on vendors and where to purchase fish in the Columbia River Gorge.

*Corps Implementation:* Leah Hamilton, Corps, reported that the Corps plans on implementing the operation as requested, and will coordinate with CRITFC on the duration of the fishing season.

**Lower Monumental Dam (LMN) Operations for Transport Update** – Erick Van Dyke, FPAC Chair/ODFW, provided an update on spill and transport operations at LMN, reviewing within-day flow fluctuations as a result of fish transport operations (project graphs/links on the [TMT agenda](#)). He noted there are within-day fluctuations in spill operations, causing spill to drop below the cap at times. From a fish perspective, this is significant because the fluctuations translate downstream to Ice Harbor (IHR), affecting flow patterns with rapid increases and decreases. Erick reviewed the 5-minute data, noting that when operations change spill drops to zero briefly, a detail not captured well in the hourly averages. It remains important from a fish perspective to continue tracking these within-day flow fluctuations as they can be disruptive to fish. The Corps, and other TMT members, did not have any additional information to add at this time.

**Flow Augmentation** – On behalf of FPAC, Erick reported no new recommendations or updates regarding the treaty flow augmentation releases. Tony confirmed no changes for the recommendations to release 1.0 maf treaty flow augmentation for fish.

**June Water Supply Forecast (WSF)** – Chris Runyan, Reclamation, reported the official June WSF for Hungry Horse Dam (HGH). The June through July WSF was 535 kaf, or 59% of average; April through August was 1,585, or 77% of average; the May through September was 1,328, or 75% of average; and the January through July was 1,738 kaf, or 78% of average. Chris noted a significant drop in the forecast since last month (about 28%) due to little precipitation and warm temperatures in May resulting in early snow melt at higher elevations.

Doug Baus, Corps, reported the June WSF for Corps of Engineers projects:

- **TDA:** NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 69 maf, or 78% of average.
- **Lower Granite (LWG):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 18 maf, or 79% of average.  
*[Facilitator's Note: during the editing process, the Corps noted the LWG WSF was originally misstated and should be 16 maf.]*
- **Libby (LIB):** Corps June runoff forecast is 4,670 kaf, or 77% of average.
- **Dworshak (DWR):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 1,835 kaf, or 74% of average.

Charles Morrill, WA, asked if the Corps thought forecasts at TDA would continue to decline. The Corps confirmed it is hard to accurately predict further than the 10-day forecast.

**Draft Summer Spill Priority List (SPL)** – Dan Turner, Corps, presented the draft [Summer 2025 SPL](#), noting that the Corps is seeking feedback from Salmon Managers on the order for spill for lack of load. This SPL remains unchanged in order and format from last year. Erick reported that there was no recommendation on a change in order from FPAC and appreciated receiving the SPL with enough time in advance to review.

**Additional Update** – Charles reported that wildfire risk is extremely high, with both the OR and WA coast regions fully red; water supply is a major concern.

**Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members** – There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

**The next scheduled TMT meeting will be on June 18, 2025, at 9:00 AM.**  
*A DS Consulting Process Meeting will follow the TMT Business meeting.*

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
Technical Management Team  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

**Minutes: Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group)**

Today's TMT meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and conference call, 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. May 28 Minutes
  - Approved
- b. June 4 Facilitator Summary and Minutes
  - Approved

**2. Treaty Fishing – Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC**

- a. [SOR 2025 C-1](#)
  - Starting Date with an initial two-week opening:
    - Monday, June 16, 2025, 6 am, through Thursday, June 19, 2025, 6 pm
    - Monday, June 23, 2025, 6 am, through Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 6 pm
  - Operating Bands Requested
    - Bonneville: Operate the pool within a 1.5-foot band during the treaty fishing period.
    - The Dalles: Operate the pool within a 1.5-foot band during the treaty fishing period.
    - John Day: Operate the pool within a 2-foot band during the treaty fishing period.
  - Fish Forecast
    - Columbia River (Mouth)
      - Summer Chinook: 38,000 (below average)
      - Sockeye: 350,200 (near average)
      - Steelhead (combined): 11,800
    - Because the fish forecast ran below normal it may be a truncated season – might be done by mid-July depending on what fish come in and the efficiency of the Tribal fishers.
  - CRITFC will be launching a midweek net flight survey in the Lower Columbia.
    - Will share data with the Corps' Reservoir Control Center two to seven days after the flight.

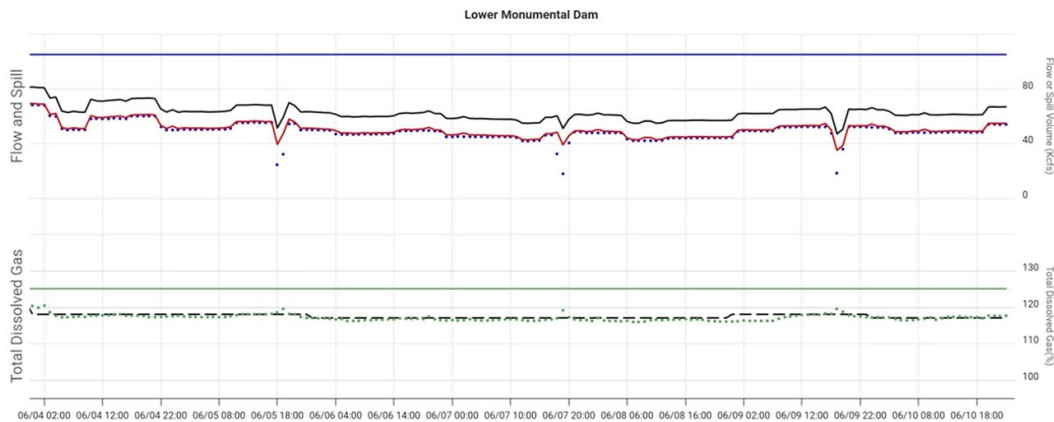
Leah Hamilton, Corps, said that the Corps plans on implementing per the request. She said that it generally had worked out very well and gone smoothly. She said that they will continue to coordinate with CRITFC and Dittmer about how long the season is going to go and which days and times they want, to make sure that the Treaty fishing bands are held.

Dittmer said he would mention that once they have internal coordination with CRITFC and the Tribal Fisheries managers usually they will let RCC know that day or later that day. It is pretty fast coordination as far as once they have in mind, after looking at the fish catch. Typically, they would probably be done at least by the previous Monday/Tuesday. He added for those that were interested in buying fish this year, go to the [CRITFC website](#) on the left-hand side there is a link “[Buy Fish!](#)” to see a list of the fish vendors out in the Gorge. Dittmer said that as far as he knew all the vendors are out there this year.

### 3. LMN Operations for Transport Update – *Erick Van Dyke, OR/FPAC Chair*

#### a. FPC Spill to FOP Graphs

- Lower Monumental (LMN)



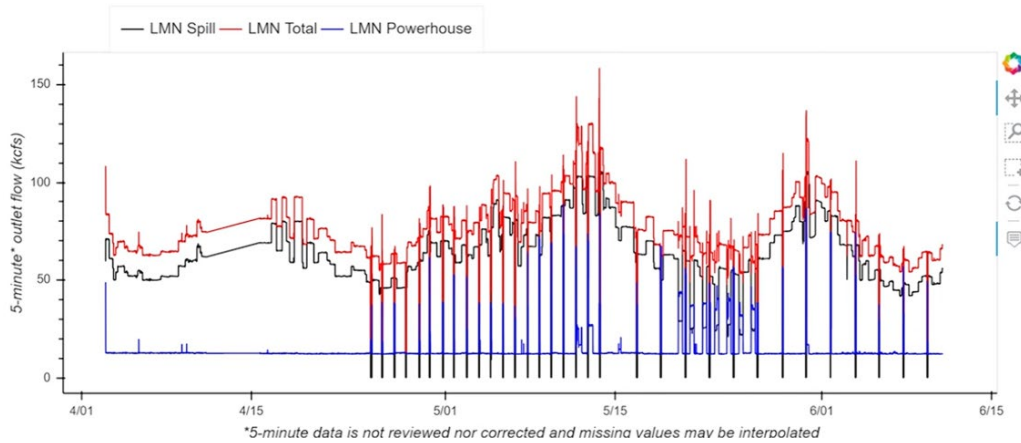
- There continues to be some within day spill operation fluctuations that have reduced spill below the cap

- Ice Harbor (IHR)



- The within day flow fluctuations translated down to IHR, seen by tracking the decreases and relatively rapid increases in the black line.

b. LMN, IHR Flow & Elevation Timeseries



- When operations are changed the chart shows that it drops all the way to zero spill, something that is not captured well in the hourly average information.
- Reconfirms that there were within day flow fluctuations taking place.

Baus said that the Corps had no additional information to share.

4. **Flow Augmentation** – *Erick Van Dyke, OR/FPAC Chair, and Tony Norris, BPA*

- Van Dyke said that this topic was on the agenda for TMT to have an opportunity to touch base on what is happening with the flow augmentation actions in reference to an FPAC recommendation on how to deal with Treaty Flow.
  - At this time FPAC does not have any updates or additional recommendations to request.
- Norris said that there were no changes to recommendations for the release of the 1 maf of Treaty Flow Augmentation for fish.

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

Reclamation

- Hungry Horse – March Final Forecast
  - June – July
    - 535 kaf
    - 59% of average
  - April – August
    - 1585 kaf
    - 77% of average
  - May – September
    - 1328 kaf

- 75% of average
- January – July
  - 1738 kaf
  - 78% of average
- Large drop in volume since the May forecast.
  - Some runoff in May, very little precipitation and a lot of runoff.
  - High elevation snow melted off.
    - Dropped 28% decrease in what was projected
- Minimum Flows Downstream of Hungry Horse  
(based on the March Final April – August)
  - Columbia Falls: 3410 cfs
  - Below HGH (S. Fork): 750 cfs

Corps

- The Dalles
  - April to August Runoff Volume
    - 69 maf
    - 78% of average
- Lower Granite
  - April to July Volume
    - 18 maf *[NOTE: the value stated at the meeting was an error. The actual LWG April-July runoff volume forecast is 16 maf.]*
    - 79% of average
- Libby
  - April to August Runoff Volume
    - 4670 kaf
    - 77% of average
- Dworshak (Clearwater Fork)
  - April to July Runoff Volume
    - 1835 kaf
    - 74% of average

Charles Morrill, WA, asked if the Corps saw the volume for TDA continuing to decline at this point in time. He said that it had dropped a lot and the trend seems to be downward.

Hamilton said that the forecast the Corps looks at includes the 10-day precipitation forecast and beyond ten days it is really hard to predict anything. She said that this includes any precipitation that we would see in the next ten days in the basin. She said

that the short answer is that the Corps does not know but this does include a little bit of the future.

Morrill said that he appreciated the cautionary outlook. He said that the trend that we see, for what Dittmer had shared with FPAC and looking at the long-term trends and at this point in time, precipitation becomes less on average each month. He said that his perception is that he is hoping that it will not drop a great deal more, but he is concerned.

Hamilton said that she thought that they had the same sentiments, but seeing it continue to decrease is not what we want.

Morrill responded with correct.

## **6. Draft Summer Spill Priority List – *Dan Turner, Corps-NWD***

### **a. Spill Priority List – [DRAFT Summer 2025](#)**

- Coming up on summer spill operations and the Corps likes to check in with TMT and the Fish Managers to see if there was any feedback on the Spill Priority List.
- Same order and format used last year – Turner opened it for feedback on the order of spill for lack of load.

Van Dyke, OR/FPAC, thanked Turner for putting it out last week so that FPAC had a chance to review it before today's meeting. He said that after review there was not any recommendations provided by members of FPAC. It looks like it is good to go.

Stranz said that it is always nice when the spill priority list conversations is easy and smooth like that because of all the good work that they had done last year.

## **7. Other**

Morrill shared with TMT members that in Dittmer's presentation on weather outlook yesterday at FPAC the wildfire risk is extremely high. He said that it was the first time that he had ever seen both Washington and Oregon coasts fully red. He said in terms of water supply and a lot of what we have, that is the major concern and of course thunderstorms that could impact operation at DWR could be a concern. He said that he would share that with the group because he had never, and Dittmer said the same thing, they had never seen the entire Olympic Peninsula and the coastline in red for fire danger. Interesting thought and not a good one.

## **8. Set agenda for next meeting – **June 18, 2025** (+Process Meeting)**

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

### **a. Flow Augmentation**

**Today's Attendees:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative(s)</b>
NOAA Fisheries	Emi Melton
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Kyle Dittmer, Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Keely Murdoch
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright, Aaron Marshall
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Idaho	
Montana	
Spokane Tribe	
Nez Perce Tribe	
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Tom McDonald
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Jessika Solleder, Daniel Turner, Tiffany Stoeckig-Dixon, Christopher Peery, Leah Hamilton, Alexis Mills, Tom Conning, Eric Chow, Michelle Yuen, Catherine Dudgeon, Elizabeth Holdren, Patricia Madson

BPA – Tammy Mackey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor, *recording only*)

AVA – Mike Dillon, Patrick Maher

PSE – John Chandler

FPC – Erin Cooper

PGE – Phil DeVol

EKI - Travis Togo, Eve James

Snohomish PUD – Scott Richards

Clearing Up – K.C Mehaffey

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O'Bryant

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

Unaffiliated – Kenneth Curtis, Shea Frantz