COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
July 30, 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.

Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes – TMT Members approved the official meeting minutes and facilitator's summary from the July 23 meeting, pending a minor edit from WA.

Sockeye Conversion Update - Jonathan Ebel, ID, provided an update on adult Snake River sockeye conversion, with data as of July 30. He noted that passage rates are significantly down, and any fish still in the system are highly unlikely to make it to the Stanley Basin. Window counts are close to the PIT-tag expansion, indicating less straying of upper Columbia River sockeye into the Snake River, unlike past years. There were fewer Columbia River sockeye this year and a different temperature dynamic, which could result in less straying into the Snake later in the run.

Bonneville (BON) to Lower Granite (LWG) conversion is about 60%, comparable to better years (2022, 2024). No Snake River sockeye PIT-tags have been detected at Priest Rapids (PRD), and there is little to no detectable straying into the Columbia of Snake River fish. Jonathan noted that 5 fish detected at LWG were not detected at Ice Harbor (IHR), possibly because they passed through navigation locks instead of fish ladders. Charles Morrill, WA, expressed interest in use of the navigation lock for passage, noting that it could be a potential tool to improve passage in the future. Finally, Jonathan emphasized that conversion rates must account for detection rates at upstream sites, so as not to miss fish passing projects undetected.

Dworshak Operations - Jessika Solleder, Corps, reported on current operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR). Current project elevation is 1,572 feet, with inflows at 1 kcfs and outflows just under 7.8 kcfs; the project is drafting 1 foot/day.

Stream temperatures in the Hells Canyon complex at Anatone are in the mid-70s°F, and in the mid-upper 70s°F in the Clearwater at Orofino. The LWG tailwater is hanging around 68°F. A thermal response to the current heat wave is apparent in the LWG forebay, resulting in some surface heating due to the 100+°F days, however overall stratification remains as expected. Incoming cooler weather will help moderate temperatures.

Throughout the system, temperatures increased yesterday and today with the heat wave, cooler weather and incoming cloud cover beyond Thursday will provide some relief. Local temperatures near DWR will cool through the weekend, although there is potential for temperatures to increase again past the 10-day forecast window.

The current modeling results from this morning show last week's cooler temperatures allowed for a reduced DWR outflow to conserve water. Outflows increased over the weekend to about 8.5 kcfs to combat the current heatwave (expected through Thursday). With forecasted cooler temperatures in the 80s/low 90s°F, a reduction in outflows to 7.6 kcfs is planned for the first few days in August to keep the LWG tailwater at or below 69.5°F through August 14 and further reduce risk for 71°F degree days; the risk of 70°F days remains. Outflows may need to be adjusted in the first week in August depending on

conditions. The highest remaining risks are extended heat waves above 100°F, and during the period of Doble testing at LWG.

Charles Morrill noted concern for fish during the planned maintenance work at Lower Monumental, although LWG temperatures will not be affected by this; Jessika confirmed that the modeling does not account for LMN work. Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, asked if the Corps had done analysis for LWG trap temperatures during the same timeframe around August 4 when LWG tailwater temperatures could exceed 69°F, Jessika reported the Corps did model and does not anticipate trap temperatures rising to 70°F during this period (because of the cooler nighttime temperatures). Jay reminded the group that 70°F is the cutoff for trapping to occur at Lower Granite.

2026 Water Management Plan (WMP) - Doug Baus, Corps, reported that as requested, the review schedule for the draft WMP has been adjusted. The draft will be posted on the Corps' website on August 1, with TMT comments due August 22. Once feedback is reviewed and incorporated, AAs will post the final WMP by the end of the water year on September 30.

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 August 6, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Today's TMT meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and conference call, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. Minutes were collected by Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group). A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

1. **Review Summary and Minutes**
   a. July 23 Facilitator Summary and Minutes
      - Charles Morrill, WA, had some edits.

      Morrill said that he sent in a couple of comments this morning.

      Stranz asked if he wanted to share with everyone or if we should look at the notes and minutes next time.

      Morrill said that he could share today. He said the fourth paragraph down on the Facilitator Summary, the third line down, instead of saying "successfully managing thermal accumulation" he thought he had changed that to the "accumulation of fewer thermal units from Bonneville to Ice Harbor" which would be more accurate because we do not manage the thermal accumulation, they accumulate as an addition upstream.

      Colby Mills, DS Consulting, said that the edit she received was to cross out "successfully managing" and include "less accumulated thermal stress".

      Morrill said that he had not looked at the minutes, so if that comment is there in the minutes, it also needs to be edited to reflect what is in the Facilitator's notes.

      - Approved with Morrill's edits.

2. **Sockeye Conversion Update** *(as of July 30, 2025) – Jonathan Ebel, IDFG*
      - Overview:
        - This is it for the year.
        - Sockeye passage rates are way down and fish that are in the system are highly unlikely to make it to the Stanley Basin.
      - Notes:
        - The window count was very close to the PIT tag expansion which indicates that there was not a lot of straying of Upper Columbia Sockeye into the Snake this year.
          - Different from past years.

        - Likely due to fewer Upper Columbia Sockeye this year and a slightly different temperature dynamic going on right now. Usually, we would see heavy straying into the Snake, particularly later in the run.
    - BON > LWG: 60%
        - On par with the better years that we have seen out of the last few years. Comparable with 2024 and 2022.
    - Straying
        - No tags were detected at Priest Rapids.
        - Interesting pattern for this year that parallels with little straying into the Snake by Upper Columbia fish, and nondetectable straying into the Columbia by Snake River fish.
        - Interesting difference from past years.
    - Five Tags
        - Five tags that were detected at Lower Granite were not detected at Ice Harbor as well as some other dams (listed in the note of the presentation).
        - Fish were probably passing through navigation locks. The probability that tag collisions occur, that they can actually avoid the detection rates in the ladders are very high and the probability that they could avoid detection in two different ladders is unlikely, so those fish probably passed through navigation locks. There is evidence that some fish are using locks.

Morrill said that he thought it was unique that we get the observation of fish missing Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental and that documentation of navigation locks used, because that has been a point of concern in the past that there is a potential tool to improve passage at different times of the year and for different species. He said that was a piece of information that was worth noting and put into our back pockets as a reminder that it could be a potential tool in certain circumstances. Morrill thanked Ebel for sharing.

Ebel said that one other point is that it also indicates to be careful if you are going to do conversion rates, you have to look upstream of the dam and make sure you are accounting for detections at upstream sites because sometimes these fish miss it. He said that we have shown it with Chinook and when we think about passage delays or conversions at different points in the system, it is important to look at the detection upstream because fish do all sorts of crazy things, like passing through locks.

3. **Dworshak (DWR) Operations –** *Jessika Solleder, Corps-NWW*
    a. Access to Water website – Current Hourly Data
        - Forebay Elevation: ~1572 feet
        - Inflow: 1 kcfs

- Outflow: 7.8 kcfs
- Drafting: 1 foot/day

b. Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data
   - Anatone (Snake River):
     - Temperature: Mid-70s
   - Orofino (Clearwater Mainstem):
     - Temperature: Mid- to Upper-70s
     - Flow: 1.68 kcfs
   - Lower Granite (LWG) Tailwater:
     - Temperature: Upper band of 68°F

c. Lower Granite Forebay Temperature String
   - There was a thermal response to the heatwave that the region was experiencing.
   - As a result to the ~100°F days, the surface temperature is heating up but the stratification remains where expected.

d. Lower Snake River Temperature Report for July 2025
   - Full System
     - July 29 and 30: Temperatures have been heating up due to the heatwave.

e. 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast
   - Current:
     - The heatwave is impacting the region but there is some cloud cover.
   - Beyond July 31
     - General trend of temperatures cooling down over the basin with some additional cloud cover.

f. Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID
   - The end of the heat wave will begin tapering quickly on around Friday August 1.
   - There will be a week of cooler temperatures before there is a potential for temperatures to pick back up outside of the 10-day forecast window.

g. Current Model Results - posted Wednesday, July 30 at 8:20am
   - Temperature Augmentation Analysis
     - There were some cooler temperatures last week that allowed a reduction of outflow through DWR which can reserve some water for the remainder of the summer.
     - Over the weekend outflows at DWR were increased to ~8.5 kcfs to combat the heat wave that is expected to continue through Thursday, July 31.

  - Good news, the cooler temperatures of 80s and low-90s will allow DWR to decrease outflow to ~7.6 kcfs for the first few days of August.
  - Extending the number of days of the outflow of 7.6 kcfs will further reduce the risk of seeing days at 71°F and conserve water for potential heat waves.
  - As the next weather system comes in we may need to adjust the outflow the first week of August, depending on how things play out.
- Water Supply Outlook
  - DWR will be operating to the 69.5°F at LWG tailwater through August 14.
  - The risk of reaching 71°F is minimal but there is a still a risk of reaching 70°F at the LWG tailwater.
  - The highest remaining risks are still surrounding Doble testing and any extended heatwaves above 100°F, lasting five to six days.
  - The current projected September 1 elevation is 1535.

Morrill said that one of the things that was not included in the update was the maintenance work scheduled at Lower Monumental. He said although it is not part of the projections, there is some uncertainty. He said that it seemed to him to note the dates in the table that the Corps presented. He said that it was not accounted for, at least to his understanding, it was not accounted for in the modeling.

Solleder asked for clarification, she asked if he was talking about Lower Granite or Lower Monumental.

Morrill said, he was asking about Lower Monumental, he said that there was going to be four to five days that there was going to be an outage at Lower Monumental and that operation was not identified early on enough to be included or had not been included in the model. He said that he was not asking for it to be included in the model, just for the dates to be included. He said that he thought that it was an uncertainty of the impact of the operation, so he wondered if it should be noted here as well. It is not going to affect the operation for Lower Granite, but it may affect temperatures down below.

Solleder told Morrill thank you for calling that out. She said that this does not show Lower Monumental, it just shows Lower Granite, but Lower Granite temperatures would not be impacted by Lower Monumental.

Morrill said that he agreed and recognized but he thought that it was a concern to the Fish Managers as well.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, thanked Solleder and told her it was a good summary. He said that this projection had water temperatures getting close to 70°F in the August 8/9 timeframe in the Lower Granite tailrace. He asked if she had done the analysis for Lower Granite trap temperatures during that timeframe of after August 4 when we start to see tailrace temperatures exceeding 69°F.

Solleder said that they had looked at that. She said because of the cool nighttime temperatures expected for during this time, they do not anticipate seeing the trap getting to 70°F during this period.

Hesse reminded the group that 70°F is the cutoff for trap temperatures that allow trapping to occur so that is an important one. He said the operations shown here showing increases in DWR discharge on August 7 and then getting up to the 10k level on August 8 will impact and reduce temperatures at LWG down to the 68°F threshold by August 13/14. He asked if we were to extend the *X*-axis a little bit, that would be what we should expect at that point.

Solleder said yes, that was correct. That is to prepare for the LWG Doble testing, and to prepare for getting down to the 68°F by August 14.

4. **2026 Water Management Plan (WMP) - *Doug Baus, Corps-NWD***

   a. Water Management Plan 2026

   - Reminder that as requested the Corps has adjusted the review schedule for the WMP to align with the water year.
   - August 1 WMP Draft posted
   - August 22 TMT Comments on the WMP Draft are due.
   - September 30 Final Draft will be posted by the start of the 2026 water year.

   Morrill asked if the WMP for WY2026 would include any changes resulting from Administration guidelines. Or are we still on the same path to continue the operations as we have done in prior years. He asked if Baus had any comments on that.

   Baus said that they are working through those issues right now, so the best that he could say is, please stand by and wait to see what they put in the draft.

5. **Set agenda for next meeting – *Wednesday, August 6, 2025***

   Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

   a. DWR Update

Today's Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	Trevor Conder
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Pete McHugh, Tom Lorz
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	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

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Jessika Solleder, Willow Walker, Steven Lee, Catherine Dudgeon, Chris Peery, Michelle Yuen

BPA – Tammy Mackey

NOAA – Darren Ogden

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

NPCC – Kate Self

FPC – Noah Campbell

CHPM – Jay Fintz, Lance Beyer,

SnoPUD – Mike Shapley

EKI – Eve James

AVA – Mike Dillon

PSE – Patrick Maher, John Chandler

Douglas PUD – Andrew Gingerich

GCPUD – Eva Stites