

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 6, 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 30 meeting.

Dworshak Operations - Jessika Solleder, Corps, reported on current operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR). Current project elevation is 1,565.32 feet, with inflows of about 0.7 kcfs and outflows of 7.6 kcfs; the project is drafting about 1-foot/day.

Stream temperatures in the Hells Canyon complex at Anatone are in the low 70s°F, as well as in the Clearwater at Orofino (even slightly cooler). The Lower Granite (LWG) tailwater is in the upper 68°F range. Cooler ambient weather is helping maintain good pool stratification; this is predicted to continue in the coming days.

Temperatures in the lower Snake River system have been responding to the cooler weather. Although there are some warm days, the 10-day forecast shows generally below average temperatures that will continue to provide a thermal benefit to the system. The 10-day regional outlook shows temperatures cooling through Thursday, with a slight chance of precipitation. Temperatures will begin to heat back up through the end of the 10-day and will remain dry. Locally, Lewiston will also see cool temperatures through Thursday, with temperatures heating up to the 100°F range early next week. The second week of August should cool back down to the low 90s°F/upper 80s°F; the Corps will continue to monitor.

Modeling results from today show the current cooler weather pattern allowing for a reduction in outflows on Monday, from 8.9 kcfs to about 7.6 kcfs; the water saved will be helpful as the project ramps back up prior to Doble testing and for returning the LWG tailwater to 68°F following the operation. Releases should reach LWG by the time Doble testing begins. Jessika noted that these releases will utilize the last of DWR's augmentation water for the season. Modeling shows the typical swings in temperature at LWG August 11-13 from Doble testing, around 68°F most of the time before stabilizing following the operation. The Corps anticipates maintaining good pool stratification that should allow for continued fish trap operations in the second half of August.

In response to a query, Jessika confirmed that DWR will have on average about 8.8 kcfs outflow per day starting from August 14. Any significant heat waves could risk LWG tailwater temperatures increasing, and the Corps will continue to take advantage of saving water if cool weather provides the opportunity. Jessika also clarified for the group that Doble testing tests the transformers at a project, which includes taking the power generating turbines offline, influencing how water is put through a project. In response to a query, Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, reported that at this time of year, Anatone flow varies between 15,000 and 25,000 cfs per day, and the mainstem Clearwater contributes a little less than 2,000 cfs.

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 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

Today's TMT meeting was held via Microsoft Teams, 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 30 Facilitator Summary and Minutes

- Approved

2. Dworshak (DWR) Operations – *Jessika Solleder, Corps – NWW*

a. Current Hourly Data

- Forebay Elevation: 1565.32 feet
- Inflow: ~7 kcfs
- Outflow: 7.6 kcfs
- Drafting: 1 foot/day

b. Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data

- Anatone (Snake River):
 - Temperature: Low 70s
- Orofino (Clearwater Mainstem):
 - Temperature: Low 70s
 - Cooler than Hells Canyon complex
- Lower Granite (LWG) Tailwater:
 - Temperature: Upper 68°F temperature band

c. Lower Granite Forebay Temperature String

- Cool ambient temperatures are being pushed down the pool.
- Cool weather predicted for the coming days.
- This will continue to benefit the stratification in the pool.

d. Lower Snake River Temperature Report for July 2025

- Temperatures have been responding thermally to some of the cooler days.
- There have been some warm days interspersed with the cooler but there are below average temperatures coming in over the next few days which will continue to provide a thermal benefit to the system.

e. 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast

- Temperature:
 - Temperatures cool through Thursday, August 7.
 - In the second half of the 10-Day, temperatures start to warm up.
- Precipitation:
 - There is a slight chance of precipitation through Thursday.
 - Overall, the forecast remains dry.

f. Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID

- Cool weather is playing out in Lewiston through Thursday.
- Friday will be at about average.
- Temperatures will potentially hit up to 100°F at the early part of next week.
- The second week of August should bring temperatures back down to the low-90s and upper-80s.
- The Corps will continue to monitor the weather.

g. Water Temperature Analysis

- Monday there was an opportunity to reduce outflows from 8.9 kcfs to ~7.6 kcfs. This was thanks to the cool weather pattern experienced.
- Saving the water will be beneficial as we ramp back up ahead of LWG Doble testing and returning water to 68°F at the LWG tailwater.
- The evening of August 6 there will be the releasing of additional water so that it would reach LWG by the time Doble testing begins.
- Note: The releases are going to utilize the last of the reserve water for the season, but it was strategized over the course of the Summer to provide the extra water for this operation and to return the LWG tailwater to 68°F once out of the relaxed temperature threshold, which ends right when Doble testing ends.
 - They are making the DWR releases to ensure that stratification remains.
- August 11 – 13: Doble Testing at LWG, typically, during Doble testing we would see swings in temperatures like shown in the model. At the end of the 10-day it will show better how that Doble testing will pattern out.
 - Overall, the Corps believes that temperatures are going to be around 68°F most of the time.
- Looking beyond Doble testing, the temperatures are going to begin to stabilize again, and the operation is anticipated to put us in a good position to keep stratification in the pool, which will be beneficial for the LWG adult Fish Trap operations that are beginning the second half of the month.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, thanked Solleder for the great summary. He said that if he was understanding this right after August 12, beyond the graphic shown, he asked if it was

correct that we have a 9k volume of DWR water through the end of August, so there was no extra buffer above that 9k, or the only buffer would be if we had some cold snaps where we would save some more water or was there some more buffer built in after this time frame.

Solleder said more or less that is what was going on here. She said that they actually have an average of 8.8 kcfs that they could put out per day, they had looked at it from August 14 on. She said that they are looking at the weather and if we hit days where we have a heat wave that might put us at risk of seeing the temperatures increase but if they do see any opportunity, like we did at the beginning of this week to save some water if the weather cools down the Corps will be looking for that and capitalizing on that.

Hesse said thank you.

Charles Morrill, WA, asked if it was possible for Solleder to show the contribution of flows from Hells Canyon Complex and the Snake at Anatone, the relative proportions. He said that he was curious about that because he was not sure which one was the warmer, they both warm up pretty well at some point in time. He said that he was curious about the relative volumes coming in from both sources.

Solleder said that was a great question. She said that it was definitely baked into the model but she would shoot him an email with that information if wanted.

Morrill said thank you and that he would appreciate that. He said that he was looking at the flow discharge gauge for Anatone, and he was curious about the relative proportions of water coming from each source.

Solleder said that it is baked into their model, but it is not getting to that granular level when it is actually shown on the graph.

Hesse said when Morrill is looking at that graph of Anatone gauge, he assumed that this time of year it will vary between 15 kcfs and 25 kcfs per day roughly.

Morrill said he was seeing something between 22k of the peak on August 2 so the one he was looking at was a little older, but then it was running from something around 15k to about more like 20k.

Hesse said typically this time of year it is in the 15 – 25k range at Anatone, the only major tributary past that is the Asotin Creek, and so if you look at that relative to the Clearwater flows and as Solleder was showing releases out of DWR, you can add about 2 kcfs, a little bit less than that from the mainstem Clearwater upstream of the North Fork. So, it is 10k to a little under half, to about one-third.

Morrill thanked Hesse.

Brian Marotz, MT, had a question about Doble testing. He asked for the Cliff Notes on that, what happens, and what goes on with Doble testing.

Solleder said essentially Doble testing is testing the transformers at each Project. At LWG, what that means is units are going to be taken offline so that the transformers can be tested. That is usually done in August, and as can be seen on the graph there are temperature undulations and that is partially because those units are taken off from about 8:00am to 6:00pm so everything converts to spill instead of putting water through the units, and that would have an impact on water temperature at LWG. It is transformer testing and it affects how we can put water through the Project.

3. Set agenda for next meeting – **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

Today's Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	Emi Melton
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	
Yakama Nation	
Bureau of Reclamation	
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Aaron Marshall
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

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Patricia Madson, Leah Hamilton, Jessika Solleder, Chris Peery, Tom Conning, Catherine Dudgeon, Alexis Mills

BOR – Corinne Horner

NOAA – Darren Ogden

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

Flathead County Commissioner – Randy Brodehl

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor, via audio recording)

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

PGE – Phil DeVol

SnoPUD – Scott Richards

CHPM – Lance Beyer, Jay Fintz

AVA – Mike Dillon

FPC – Noah Campbell, Erin Cooper

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

Unaffiliated – Mike Buchko, Kenneth Curtis, Miguel Verduzco