

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 20, 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 facilitator's summary from the August 13 meeting, the official meeting minutes from August 6 and 13 will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting.

Fall Treaty Fishery – Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, presented [SOR 2025 C-2](#) for the fall 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 August 18 at 0600 hours through August 21 at 1800 hours, August 25 at 0600 hours through August 30 at 1800 hours, and September 1 at 0600 hours through September 6 at 1800 hours. CRITFC will coordinate with the Corps and BPA if there are additional fishing season requests moving forward.

The current fish forecast for BON shows a return of about 595,000 adult fall upper Columbia Chinook (near average), with about 115,000 coho and almost 150,000 A and B index steelhead; returns should provide good fishing opportunities for Tribal fishers. Kyle also noted that CRITFC is conducting several net surveys each week moving forward, aerial counts yesterday were 179 distributed among the three pools. The [CRITFC website](#) lists locations where Tribal fishers are selling throughout the Columbia River Gorge.

Corps Implementation: Catherine Dudgeon, Corps, reported that the Corps plans on implementing the operation as requested following their coordination with BPA. Kyle noted that CRITFC is working on streamlining their internal processes to help Action Agencies (AAs) coordinate these operational requests efficiently.

Dworshak Operations – Jessika Solleder, Corps, reported on current operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR). Current reservoir elevation is 1,549.2 feet with inflows of approximately 0.4 kcfs and outflows of approximately 8.6 kcfs. The project is drafting about 1-foot/day.

Stream temperatures in the Hells Canyon complex are on the high end of 73°F and temperatures in the Clearwater are around the low end of 73°F. At Lower Granite (LWG), the tailwater is on the high end of 66°F, and the pool shows good stratification at the 15-20-meter mark which should help during the upcoming forecasted heat in the next few days. Warmer flows from the Hells Canyon complex are mixing with the cooler DWR flows, helping to moderate temperatures at LWG. Further down at Ice Harbor (IHR), temperatures are cooler by 2-3 degrees °F than they would be without the effect of DWR water.

The 10-day weather forecast for the region shows 5-6 days of near 100°F starting Friday/Saturday; Lewiston will cool into the 60s°F in the evenings which may pull heat off the pool overnight. Following this heat temperatures are forecasted to drop back down to the upper 80s°F for the remainder of August and into early September.

Looking back at the previous 10 days at DWR, releases for Doble testing brought the LWG tailwater back down below 68°F by August 14 when the relaxed temperature threshold terminated. Looking ahead to the next 10 days, [modeling results](#) show the forecasted heat bringing the LWG tailwater closer to 68°F. The

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Corps plans to release 8.6 kcfs for the remainder of the month, to reach 1,535 feet by the end of August for Nez Perce Tribe water rights.

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 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, August 20, 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. August 6 and August 13 Minutes

- Still pending

b. August 13 Facilitator Summary

- Approved

2. Fall Treaty Fishery - *Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, and Catherine Dudgeon, Corps RCC*

a. SOR 2025-C-2

- Dates:
 - Monday, August 18, 2025, 6 am, through Thursday, August 21, 2025, 6 pm
 - Monday, August 25, 2025, 6 am, through Saturday, August 30, 2025, 6 pm
 - Monday, September 1, 2025, 6 am, through Saturday, September 6, 2025, 6 pm
- Operation Requests:
 - Maintain Pools
 - 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.
- CRITFC will coordinate with the Action Agencies

b. Fish Forecast

- Counts at Bonneville Dam:
 - Fall Chinook: ~595,000
 - Coho: ~115,000
 - A/B Steelhead: ~150,000
- CRITFC will sponsor net surveys and plan to have weekly aerial counts.

- First one of the season has already been completed.
- 179 nets distributed across all three pools.
- Net flights will be done either on Monday or Tuesday.

c. Corps' Response – *Catherine Dudgeon, Corps*

- The Corps got the teletype out last Friday and coordinated it out with BPA.
- Everything is going as planned for the next couple of weeks.

Dittmer said that CRITFC is working to improve its internal processes. He said that they are trying to get information to the Corps and BPA earlier, in a more timely manner. He said that he knew that there sometimes has been an issue here last year. He said that CRITFC thought that they have a way they can do that much better, more effectively here and hopefully be very pleasing to their Corps and BPA partners.

Dudgeon said that they appreciate that, this helps coordinate with BPA to have them help set up the system to support that, so much appreciated.

d. Salmon Marketing - *Dittmer*

- CRITFC website has a tab for Salmon Marketing that gives a listing of all the locations that Tribal fishers are selling their fish (Cascade Locks and up the Gorge)
 - [Buy Fish - CRITFC](#)
 - All vendors are back this year.

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

a. Current Hourly Data

- Forebay Elevation: 1549.2 feet
- Inflow: 0.4 kcfs
- Outflow: 8.6 kcfs
- Drafting: ~1 foot/day

b. Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data

- Anatone (Snake River):
 - Temperature: Upper band of 73°F
- Orofino (Clearwater Mainstem):
 - Temperature: Lower band of 73°F
- Lower Granite (LWG) Tailwater:
 - Temperature: Upper band of 66°F

- c. Lower Granite Forebay Temperature String
 - There is good stratification in the pool especially at the 15- to 20-meter depth. The stratification should offer a little resilience against the heat expected over the next few days.
 - d. Lower Snake River Temperature Report for July 2025
 - Hotter temperatures coming from the Hells Canyon Complex, but the water is being met with the cool DWR flows, keeping temperatures at LWG a little cooler and benefiting the rest of the system.
 - Clearwater at Orofino:
 - Temperature: 73 – 74°F
 - IHR Tailwater (Snake River below Goose Island):
 - Temperatures remain cooler by 2 – 3°F.
 - e. 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast
 - Looking ahead there is less than favorable weather predicted to come in the system by this weekend.
 - For five to six days temperatures are expected to be $\pm 100^{\circ}\text{F}$.
 - Heat will start to build and come in Friday/Saturday and hold before eventually coming back down.
 - f. Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID
 - Lewiston forecast shows hot days coming into system but the evenings will have some cooler temperatures in the 60s which may provide benefit by pulling some of the heat off the pool overnight.
 - After the heat passes, temperatures are expected to drop back down into the upper-80s for the remainder of August and into early September.
 - g. Water Temperature Analysis - posted Tuesday, August 19, at 8:30am
 - Prior Operations (Previous Ten Days)
 - The graph showed the release of water for Doble testing that brought the river back down to below 68°F by August 14, when the relaxed temperature thresholds ended.
 - Future Operations (Next Ten Days)
 - Moving forward into the next ten days the increased temperatures that are in the forecast bring the LWG tailwater temperature up closer to 68°F.
 - Outflow planned to be 8.6 kcfs for the remainder of the month to reach 1535 feet for the Nez Perce Water Rights.
4. Set agenda for next meeting – **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**
- a. DWR Operations
 - b. DWR Board 2025 Operational Plan Update

c.

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)	Kyle Dittmer, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers	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 – Tom Conning, Steven Lee, Jessika Solleder, Chris Peery, Alexis Mills, Leah Hamilton, Eric Chow, Catherine Dudgeon

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)

PGE – Phil DeVol

EKI – Eve James

Chelan PUD – Jay Fintz, Lance Beyer

GCPUD – Eva Stites

Energy EPS – Joshua Rassmussen

FPC – Erin Cooper, Noah Campbell

NPCC – Kate Self

EAS – Shawn

Unaffiliated – Mike Buchko, Kenneth Curtis