

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 27, 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 August 6 and 13, as well as the minutes and facilitator's summary from the August 20 meeting.

**Dworshak Operations** – Jessika Solleder, Corps, reported on current operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR). Midnight elevation was 1,541.27 feet with inflows of 652 cfs and outflows of 8,700 cfs.

Stream temperatures coming into the system from the Hells Canyon complex are in the upper 73°F/lower 74°F band with the Clearwater at Orofino in the low 72°F/high 71°F band; temperatures at Lower Granite (LWG) are in the upper 68°F band. Temperature data from the last 5-days show the Lewiston area reaching just below 100°F, with a thermal response visible in the LWG forebay as heat moved downstream. Healthy stratification in the LWG pool has helped to maintain stable temperatures near 68°F despite the heat, in addition to the cool flows from DWR mixing with and cooling the hot water from Hells Canyon.

The Columbia River Basin is starting to see breaks from the heat, with expected stabilization near the end of the 10-day forecast; cloud cover over the region should provide relief for the next 3 days. Lewiston area should also see some relief, with temperatures in the upper 70s°F and some precipitation. Temperatures are expected to climb back into the 90s°F at the end of the 10-day. Jessika emphasized that cooler nighttime temperatures and shorter daylight hours should help draw heat out of the pool and preserve stratification.

DWR [temperature modeling](#) shows the recent heat and thermal response in the river, bringing the LWG tailwater closer to 68°F. Looking ahead at the 10-day forecast, DWR is nearing its target reservoir elevation, and is expected to reach 1,535 feet by August 31.

**Dworshak Board 2024 Plan Implementation Summary and 2025 Operational Plan** – Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, provided an update on the Dworshak Board 2025 operational plan for managing the 200 kaf flow augmentation water; a [memo](#) posted to the TMT website details the 2024 implementation summary and planned 2025 operation. Water release will begin September 1, with a gradual decrease of 500 cfs every 2 days through September 21. Required Doble testing at the DWR powerhouse necessitates flows to be at a minimum by the start date of September 22. Jay noted that 2 alternative flow plans were developed and approved for any potential unexpected heat waves.

**Spill Priority List (SPL)** – Dan Turner, Corps, reviewed the 2025 fall/2026 winter [SPL](#), and requested input from TMT Members. With the end of summer spill, the total dissolved gas (TDG) standard will shift to 110% starting September 1. Dan noted that the current proposed SPL remains consistent with recent years. Erick Van Dyke, OR/FPAC Chair, noted that FPAC would review the SPL the week after next and then provide feedback.

### Operations Review

**Reservoirs** – Chris Runyan, Reclamation, reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **Hungry Horse (HGH)**: 3-day average inflows were about 440 cfs, with outflows steady at 2.2 cfs, and a midnight elevation of 3,553.03 feet (approximately 7 feet down). The project drafted

over 1-foot since last week and is operating to the end of September flow augmentation draft target of 3,548.3 feet. As dry and warm conditions continue, HGH is transitioning to meet Columbia Falls minimum flow, with flows recently about 3.6 kcfs. The minimum target is 3.41 kcfs (buffer at 3.51 kcfs) and HGH may potentially increase outflow to maintain the Columbia Falls target flow.

- **Grand Coulee (GCL):** average inflows yesterday were 87.9 kcfs, with outflows of 94.1 kcfs, and a midnight elevation of 1,278.8 feet (11.2 feet from full). The project has drafted about 1.8 feet since last week. GCL is targeting the August 31 draft elevation of 1,271 feet, including 12 feet of flow augmentation for a dry year forecast at The Dalles (TDA) with an additional 1-foot for the Lake Roosevelt incremental storage release program.

Catherine Dudgeon, Corps, reported on Corps of Engineers projects:

- **Libby (LIB):** midnight elevation was 2,449.04 feet, with average inflows yesterday at 5.2 kcfs, and current outflow at 7 kcfs. LIB is still maintaining the bull trout minimum flow, which is expected through the end of August. Target elevation for the end of September is 2,446.73 feet.
  - Brian Marotz, MT, noted that LIB just celebrated its 50-year anniversary.
- **Albeni Falls (ALF):** midnight elevation was 2,062.26 feet, with average inflows yesterday at 11.7 kcfs, and current outflow at 10.6 kcfs. ALF is still operating within the summer elevation band of 2,062-2,065.5 feet
- **DWR:** midnight elevation was 1,540.74 feet, with average inflows yesterday at 0.6 kcfs, and current outflows at 8.7 kcfs.
- **LWG:** yesterday's average outflows were 22.3 kcfs. MOP ends at LWG on September 1 (after midnight).
- **McNary (MCN):** yesterday's average outflows were 133.3 kcfs.
- **Bonneville (BON):** yesterday's average outflows were 121.4 kcfs. Fall treaty fishing is occurring at BON August 25-30 and September 1-6.

*Water Quality* – Dan Turner, Corps, reported that gauges all operational and recording; TDG values are less than the applicable criteria.

*Fish* – Chris Magel, NOAA, reported that juvenile (sub-yearlings) fish sampling has been suspended at BON and MCN due to warm water temperatures and flow issues at MCN.

Adult Chinook are slowly moving upstream, with an average of 6,000 at BON, ranging from 2,500-11,000, and 254 average at Ice Harbor (IHR), ranging from 122-433, from August 19-25. Steelhead adults show a similar slower migration pattern, averaging 1,700 at BON and 85 at Priest Rapids (PRD), ranging from 75-108. Generally adult fish are moving steadily, but slowly, up the river.

Dave Swank, USFWS, reported very low numbers of juvenile lamprey, with some continued presence at LWG and Little Goose (LGS). Adult lamprey counts at BON are below average, although there is a notable increase in nighttime passage. Tagging study results may shed light on these changes in passage trends; warm tailwater temperatures (~73°F at BON) may be slowing fish migration.

Charles Morrill, WA, provided the following fish count links into the meeting chat:

- [https://www.fpc.org/river/river\\_queries/R\\_dailytailwatertempgraph\\_resultsv7.php](https://www.fpc.org/river/river_queries/R_dailytailwatertempgraph_resultsv7.php)
- [https://www.fpc.org/river/river\\_queries/R\\_dailytailwatertempgraph\\_resultsv7.php](https://www.fpc.org/river/river_queries/R_dailytailwatertempgraph_resultsv7.php)

*Power System* – Tony Norris, BPA, highlighted concerns over the weekend about potential voltage support needs to maintain transmission system stability in the Tri-Cities area due to very high temperatures and energy demand. He emphasized the importance of maintaining power system reliability to ensure human health and safety, however, no reduction in spill actions were needed at IHR, where voltage support might have required reducing spill if necessary. No immediate concerns are anticipated in the near future.

**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 September 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM.**  
***Moving forward, TMT business meetings will shift from a weekly to every other week schedule.***

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
Technical Management Team  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Wednesday, August 27, 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 Minutes
  - Approved
- b. August 13 Minutes
  - Approved
- c. August 20 Facilitator Summary and Minutes
  - Approved

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

- a. Current Hourly Data
  - Forebay Elevation: 1541.27 feet
  - Inflow: 0.65 kcfs
  - Outflow: 8.7 kcfs
- b. Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data
  - Anatone (Snake River):
    - Temperature: 73 – 74°F
  - Orofino (Clearwater Mainstem):
    - Temperature: 71 – 72°F
  - Lower Granite (LWG) Tailwater:
    - Temperature: Upper 68°F Band
- c. Lower Granite Forebay Temperature String
  - Over the past 5 days the Lewiston area was experiencing temperatures just below 100°F
  - There was a thermal response as the heatwave pushed its way down into the pool, but the healthy stratification provided some thermal resilience and preserved some of that stratification, maintaining temperatures ~68°F in the LWG tailwater.

d. Lower Snake River Temperature Report for July 2025

- Hells Canyon water coming from Anatone was pretty hot, but it mixed with the cooler water from DWR.
- Over the last 5 days, the temperatures remained relatively stable despite the heatwave.
- LWG Tailwater: ~68°F or just below

e. 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast

- The heat is starting to break up in the coming days and then will stabilize as we approach the end of the 10-Day forecast window.
- A little cloud cover is expected to benefit DWR reservoir area over the next 3 days.

f. Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID

- Today:
  - Some relief with the max temperatures in the upper 70s with some precipitation throughout the day.
- Ten-Day Window:
  - Temperatures begin to climb back up into the 90s.
  - Expecting some cool nighttime temperatures (as opposed to the hot nights during the last heatwave) so the cooler nighttime temperatures coupled with shorter days will help to draw heat out of the pool and aid in the preservation of the stratification of the pool.

g. Water Temperature Analysis - posted Tuesday, August 26 at 8:30am

- Previous Ten Days
  - Some of the heat coming into the system with a thermal response in the river bringing the LWG tailwater up closer to 68°F.
- Next Ten Days
  - End of Month Elevation: 1535 feet
  - Approaching the end of month elevation and the Corps anticipates reaching it on August 31.
  - September the Nez Perce Water Rights take effect, consequently the initial days of ramp down are shown in the ten day window.

**3. Dworshak Board 2024 Plan Implementation Summary and 2025 Operation Plan – Jay Hesse, Nez Perce**

a. 2025 Operation Plan

- Dworshak Board met earlier this week and developed the 2025 Operational Plan for managing the 200 kaf of flow augmentation water.

- The water will be released starting on September 1 and will be metered out with 500 cfs decrease every two days through September 21.
- Doble testing needs to occur at the DWR powerhouse (September 22) so the flows need to be down to the minimum powerhouse flows by then.
- There are two alternative flows in case of heatwaves.
  - Heatwaves are not anticipated at this point, but the Corps will continue to monitor the conditions.

b. 2024 Operation Plan

- The linked memo includes a summary of how the anticipated conditions from last year's operations were met.
- This was included for people to reference on their own time.

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

- Coming to the end of the Summer spill season and the TDG standard will be 110% TDG starting September 1.
- The new spill priority list provided was a rinse and repeat from last year, so Turner was looking for feedback from TMT to make sure that the order looks good.
- Turner said that he received a note from Erick Van Dyke, OR, requesting him to update the footnote at the bottom to include Oregon's exception to the 110% for fish passage. Turner said that he would be updating as soon as he had a chance.

Van Dyke said that he appreciated Turner's coverage of the information that they had talked about. He said that the Fish Managers will look at the Spill Priority List at FPAC the week after next and will discuss if there was any desire for changes.

**5. Operations Review**

a. Reservoirs

*Reclamation – Chris Runyan*

- Hungry Horse (HGH) Dam
  - Conditions:
    - Inflows at HGH continue to recede.
    - It has been dry in the Flathead with essentially no rain and warm temperatures.
  - Inflows (3-day average): 440 cfs
  - Outflows: 2.2 kcfs
  - Midnight elevation: 3553.03 feet
    - From Full: 7 feet
    - Drafted: >1 feet last week.

- End of September Draft: 3548.3 feet
- Columbia Falls Flows: 3.6 kcfs
- Columbia Falls Minimums: 3.41 kcfs
- Columbia Falls Target Flows: 3.51 kcfs
- Current Operation:
  - Continue to operate to the End of September Flow Augmentation Draft.
- Future Operations:
  - About to transition into meeting the Columbia Falls minimum.
  - There is a potential to add a little more outflow out of the dam to hold the Columbia Falls target flows.
  - Still seeing the end of September near the same draft, but it will probably be a little below that. BOR will need to keep track of that.
- Seeing Columbia Falls this low by August shows how dry it is

Brian Marotz, MT, thanked Runyan for the report. He said that he had been looking at streams in both the Kootenai and the Flathead of late and the stream flows are really low for this time of year. He thanked Runyan for pointing that out. He said as always, the September drawdown target is just that, a target, and we put a lot of emphasis on maintaining that gradual ramp down after Spring freshet through this short biologically important growing season in Montana. He said that he appreciated Reclamation's hard work keeping it all together, feathering refill to as close as it got, thankfully Montana had some rain here. He said that things have been going really well up here. He thanked Runyan for keeping it all together, and that he appreciated it.

Runyan told Marotz thank you for the collaboration. He said that they would be using their new underwater ROV to see how the selective withdrawal gates are looking in the Fall. He said that he would let Marotz know about that.

Marotz asked for Runyan to let him know when that is scheduled. He said that it would be very interesting to see what is happening with those slide gates and the relief panels.

Runyan said he will do. He said that they have the new tool and that it will be cool to see how that works and then hopefully we get a little bit of monsoonal moisture up in the Flathead. He said that it did not make it there yesterday, but Idaho did get a pretty good dose, which felt really nice after a couple of months of dry weather. He said today the Flathead might get a little precipitation up there, but we will see.

Marotz said that it was overcast right now, and it stayed pretty cool this morning so that is a relief.

- Grand Coulee Dam
  - Inflows (8/29): 87.9 kcfs
  - Outflows: 94.1 kcfs

- Midnight elevation: 1278.8 feet
  - From Full: 11.2 feet
  - Drafted: 1.8 feet last week.
- August 31 Draft: 1277 feet
  - Dry year forecast at TDA.
  - Flow Augmentation: 12 feet
  - Lake Roosevelt Incremental: 1 foot
- Current Operation:
  - Targeting August 31 Draft (Sunday).

*Corps – Catherine Dudgeon, Corps*

- Libby Dam (Lake Koocanusa)
  - Elevation: 2449.04 feet
  - Inflows: 5.2 kcfs
  - Outflows: 7 kcfs
  - End of September Elevation: 2446.73 feet
  - Operations:
    - Bull Trout minimum flow through the end of August
- Albeni Falls (Lake Pend Oreille)
  - Elevation: 2062.26 feet
  - Inflows: 11.7 kcfs
  - Outflows: 10.6 kcfs
  - Operations:
    - Operating in Summer elevation band of 2062 – 2062.5 feet
- Dworshak Dam
  - Elevation: 1540.74 feet
  - Inflows: 0.6 kcfs
  - Outflows: 8.7 kcfs
- Lower Granite Dam
  - Inflows: 22.3 kcfs
  - Operations:
    - MOP ends September 1 at 0001
- McNary Dam
  - Inflows: 133 kcfs



- Bonneville Dam
  - Inflows: 121.4 kcfs
  - Operations:
    - Fall Treaty Fishing (final week next week)

Marotz added a comment. He said that last Saturday Libby Dam celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He said that it was a great event and well attended. He said that he thought it was the first time that the top of the dam was open to public since 9/11. So people were able to walk out on the dam, go up into the tower, and see the sights. He said that the Corps rolled out the red carpet for everyone and it was a really good time up there. He said that he thought he should mention that.

b. Water Quality – *Dan Turner, Corps*

- TDG
  - Gauges are all operational and reporting.
  - TDG is less than the applicable criteria.

c. Fish

*Salmon – Chris Magel, NOAA*

- Juveniles
  - Index sampling has been suspended due to warm water both at Bonneville and McNary.
  - McNary has some flow issues going on, which is why the sampling pause is going on there.
  - Focus is on the Subyearling Chinook.
- Adult Salmon Counts
  - For adults there is a smattering, and things are moving along slowly moving upstream.
  - Data from FPC
    - August 19 – August 25
    - Average (Min – Max)
  - Chinook
    - Passage index per day
      - Bonneville: 6000 (2500 – 11000)
      - Priest: 83 (58 – 111)
      - Ice Harbor: 254 (122 – 433)
  - Steelhead
    - Passage Index per day

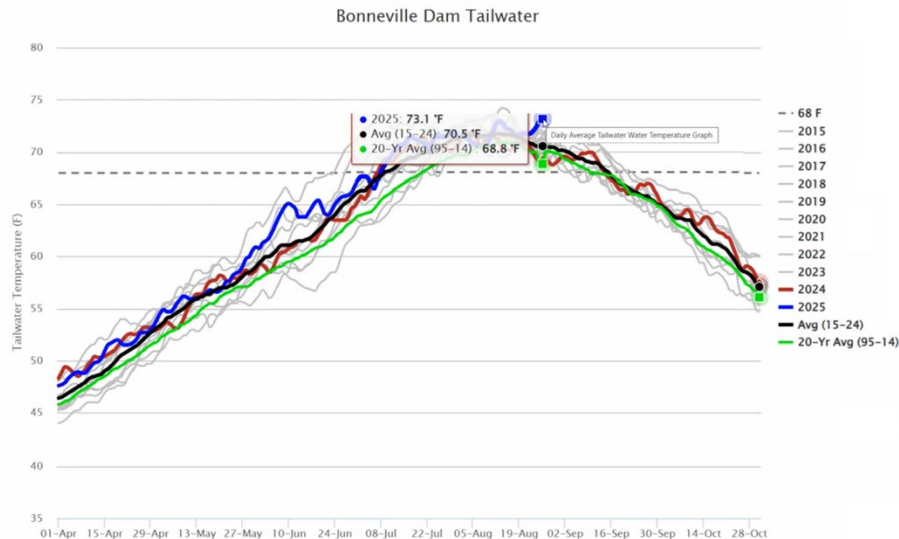
- Bonneville: 1700
- Priest: 85 (75 – 108)

*Lamprey Update – Dave Swank, USFWS*

- Juvenile Counts
  - There is still a trickle showing at LWG and LGS, not large numbers.
  - While most of the salmon and steelhead juveniles had stopped (except for the subyearlings) there is still a trickle of Juvenile Lamprey showing up.
  - Single digits at the two sites that are still collecting.
- Adult Counts
  - [COE Lamprey Daily Counts Report](#)
    - 16-hour Daytime Counts
    - 8-hour Nighttime Counts
    - 24-hour LPS Counts
    - This year there has been a higher fraction of adults counted at night.
  - Bonneville
    - Nighttime: 42,567
      - 54% of the total adults counted YTD
    - LPS: 19,096
      - 24% of the total adults counted YTD
      - Normal: 40 – 45% of the total seasonal run at Bonneville
      - Seems down, tagging study may provide insight into what is going on and if something had changed at Bonneville.

*Washington Update – Charles Morrill, WA*

- Morrill posted links to FPC Tailwater Temperatures at Bonneville and McNary.
  - Bonneville Tailwater Temperature: 73°F
  - McNary is just below that.
- Warm water temperatures could have a role in delaying fish passage moving upriver.
- With cooler weather coming the temperatures will drop back down a little but they are high.
- [fpc.org/river/river\\_queries/Q\\_tailwatertempgraphv7.php](https://fpc.org/river/river_queries/Q_tailwatertempgraphv7.php)



- Looking at MCN's graph you would see the high temperatures too.
- The temperatures are high enough that we would definitely see an impact on fish moving upriver.

d. Power System – *Tony Norris, BPA*

- As noted with Norris' notifications to TMT last Friday and on Monday, BPA had some concerns that the Tri-Cities were going to need some voltage support from Ice Harbor (IHR) as we brought energy into that area to meet the load associated with the very high temperatures.
- In that area the voltage support is key to maintaining power system reliability on the transmission system as we need voltage, frequency, and reactive support to keep the lights on and maintain human health and safety considerations.
- The additional voltage support would have had to come from IHR dam which would have showed up as reduction in and increased generation.
- There were no reductions in spill at IHR dam through the weekend and the early part of the week.
- Looking forward BPA does not see any issues in the immediate horizon.

6. Set agenda for next meeting – **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

- Operations Review
- Spill Priority List Update

**Today's Attendees:**

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Keely Murdoch
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), 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, Ben Hausmann

**Other Attendees (non-TMT members):**

COE – Jessika Solleder, Christopher Peery, Alexis Mills, Catherine Dudgeon, Daniel Turner, Leah Hamilton, Steven Lee

BOR –

BPA – Tammy Mackey

NOAA – Chris Magel, Darren Ogden

Flathead County Commissioner – Randy Brodehl

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

CHPM – Lance Beyer, Jay Fintz

AVA – Mike Dillon

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Douglas County PUD – Andrew Gingerich

NPCC – Kate Self

Ansergy - Bill

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

FPC – Noah Campbell, Erin Cooper

PSE – John Chandler

GCPUD – Eva Stites

SnoPUD – Scott Richards

PGE – Phil DeVol

Unaffiliated – Kenneth Curtis, Ross Gleason