

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 19, 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 November 5, following a minor word edit to a statement from Charles Morrill, WA, in his chum operation update on the bottom of Page 1.

Chum Operation – Doug Baus, Corps, noted the Corps' website is experiencing technical issues and will be fixed as soon as possible. He reminded the group that coordination for the next phase of the chum operation, the incubation phase, will take place during the December 17 TMT meeting; he encouraged TMT Members' attendance at the meeting.

Bonneville Dam (BON) at 0800 hours this morning had a total outflow 130 kcfs with a tailwater elevation of 11.6 feet. The RFC inflow forecast over the next 10-day period ranges from a high of 144 kcfs today to a low of 121 kcfs on November 28. Observed precipitation for the current water year (starting October 1) remains below average; the Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam (IHR) is 91% of normal (2.9 inches); the upper Columbia River Basin above Arrow (ARDB) is 88%; the Columbia River mainstem above The Dalles (TDA) is 97%; and the Willamette River Basin above Portland is 84%.

Tony Norris, BPA, noted things are looking good; BPA does not expect any significant water management impacts to support the chum operation moving forward.

Emi Melton, NOAA, reported the BON YTD chum count at 437, with counts last week ranging 10-20. Spawning survey counts from November 12 at the Ives/Pierce complex show 174 live and 62 redds. Charles reviewed a complete summary table of chum surveys, which has been distributed to TMT Members. Following a query from Dave Swank, USFWS, it was clarified that for November 18 at Ives/Pierce, redd counts should be noted in the table at 93 (rather than dead chum as recorded).

Zero Generation – Tony reported no changes in coordination or planned operations from last year. As described in the Water Management Plan, BPA expects to begin zero generation flexibility operations once the adult steelhead abundance trigger is met at Lower Granite Dam (LWG): less than 35 combined total fish and 10 unclipped fish on a rolling 3-day average. NOAA will email BPA (including TMT) when the trigger threshold has been met, to signal the start of the operation. NOAA had nothing further to add, and noted Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, remains the point of contact for NOAA on this operation.

Charles added that the 10-day meteorological forecast shows additional incoming moisture into the region, with another storm coming in towards the end of the period, helping to influence river conditions.

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

The next TMT meeting will be on December 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, November 19, 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 – Emily Stranz, DS Consulting

a. November 5 Facilitator Summary and Minutes

- Charles Morrill, WA, said that he was quoted in the Summary saying "Graves", he had said "Grays". He requested that it be changed.
- Approved (pending change)

2. Chum Operations – Doug Baus, Corps NWD; Tony Norris, BPA; Ryan Fosness, BOR; Emi Melton, NOAA Fisheries; and Charles Morrill, WA

a. Chum Operation Coordination

- Chum Spawning Phase Operation was coordinated on October 22 and started on November 1 at 0600 hours with a Bonneville maintaining a tailwater elevation of 10.5', with a transition on November 4 at 0001 hours to an elevation of 11.3 – 13.0'.
- Baus shared a reminder that the next TMT meeting is December 17. He said that this would be the time that TMT generally would coordinate the Chum Incubation Operation. He requested that TMT members be ready to coordinate at that time.

b. Bonneville Dam (BON) – Hourly Data – Baus

- There were some technical difficulties with the Corps' hourly data website. It was projected to be running again soon. ¹
- Tailwater Elevation (Hour 8): 11.6 feet
- Total Outflow: 130 kcfs

¹ Chow, Eric Y CIV USARMY CENWD (USA) 9:15 AM Here is an alternate public link for Bonneville data that is currently working: <https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/nwdp/locations/bon>

c. NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (10-day) - *Baus*



- BON Inflow Forecasted:

- High: 144 kcfs (November 19)
- Low: 121 kcfs (November 28)

d. National Weather Service – Water Year Precipitation Table

- Snake River Basin abv Ice Harbor Dam

- Observed inches: 2.9 inches
- Percent of Normal: 91%

- Columbia River Basin abv Arrow Dam

- Observed inches: 8.6 inches
- Percent of Normal: 88%

- Columbia River Basin abv The Dalles Dam

- Observed inches: 4.3 inches
- Percent of Normal: 97%

- Willamette River Basin abv Portland

- Observed inches: 9.5 inches
- Percent of Normal: 84%

e. BPA Update – *Norris*

- No significant water management impacts to support the Chum Operation moving forward.

f. Bonneville Dam Adult Salmon Counts – *Emi Melton, NMFS*

- YTD Counts: 437 Chum
- Last Week Range: 10 – 20 Chum

g. Chum Spawning Survey – *Emi Melton, NMFS*

- Ives/Pierce Island Complex (November 12)
 - Lives: 147 Chum
 - Redds: 62 Redds

h. Washington Update – *Charles Morrill, WDFW*

<i>2025 Chum Spawning counts provided from WDFW TSW data base.</i>					
<i>These data are provisional and subject to review and revision Cfm 11/18/2025</i>					
Columbia Below Bonneille		Live	Dead	Redds	
Crazy Johnson Creek					
	Thursday, October 16, 2025	0	0	0	
	Wednesday, October 22, 2025	0	0	0	
	Wednesday, October 29, 2025	26	0	9	
	Wednesday, November 5, 2025	50	1	9	
	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	495	0	129	
Grays River					
	Wednesday, October 22, 2025	66	0	1	
	Wednesday, November 5, 2025	49	0	4	
	Wednesday, November 12, 2025	627	15	93	
Grays River - West Fork					
	Wednesday, October 29, 2025	81	0	31	
	Wednesday, November 5, 2025	774	3	375	
	Tues/Weds Nov 11,12, 2025	1302	4	473	
Skamokawa Creek					
	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	61	0	23	
	Monday, November 10, 2025	262	0	121	
Skamokawa Lower Chum Channel					
	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	10	0	5	
	Monday, November 10, 2025	32	0	10	

Columbia Above Bonneville		Live	Dead	Redds
Hamilton Creek				
	Tuesday, October 28, 2025	0	0	0
	Wed/Thurs Nov 5,6, 2025	57	0	3
	Wednesday, November 12, 2025	301	0	104
Hamilton Spring Channel				
	Wednesday, November 5, 2025	13	0	3
Hardy Creek				
	Thursday, November 6, 2025	0	0	0
Multnomah				
	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	0	0	0
	Monday, November 10, 2025	152	0	55
	Tuesday, November 18, 2025	640		
St. Cloud				
	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	0	0	0
	Monday, November 10, 2025	27	0	10
	Tuesday, November 18, 2025	111	0	0
Horsetail				
	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	0	0	0
	Monday, November 10, 2025	15	0	6
Marker 85				
	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	0	0	0
	Monday, November 10, 2025	1	0	0
	Tuesday, November 18, 2025	15	0	0
Ives/Pierce				
	Monday, October 27, 2025	0	0	0
	Monday, November 3, 2025	4	0	0
	Tuesday, November 18, 2025	498	93	0
Ives/IPierce Nov 18 Count : Woodard - 130 / Ives 368				

- Summary table of all the Chum Surveys observations from the database.
- Morrill received a call from Ricky yesterday, so he was able to add in the Ives/Pierce and Woodard Creek observations as well. Numbers are there and building.

Dave Swank, USFWS, asked Morrill about the latest counts in the Ives/Pierce Island. He said that he had noticed on Tuesday, November 18 at Ives/Pierce and it struck him as unusual that there were 498 Live Fish, 93 Dead Fish, and 0 Redds, especially when they saw something like 62 the last time.

Morrill said that was the data that was available, normally they do not show the Redds, if you look at the column of Redds, there are places where they do not count them. The Ives/Pierce is one of those areas. He said maybe it would show up in the TWS, but that was what he had to share this morning. He said that the note at the bottom of the table indicates the majority of the Chum were observed near the Washington shore in the Ives area (368), with fewer at Woodard on the Oregon shore (130). He then noted an error in the table and said that the that the “93” should be Redds not Deads.

3. Zero Generation – Tony Norris, BPA; Emi Melton, NOAA Fisheries; Doug Baus, Corps-NWD

- Operation
 - Norris said that there was no change in the coordination from the Zero Generation Operation last year.
 - They plan to track the passage data at Lower Granite as it relates to the abundance trigger for total and unclipped adult steelhead.

- The Few Migrating Adult Steelhead Criteria (SOR 2005-22)

Run to date>#	Run to date< #	Few criteria< #
0	30,000	10
30,000	60,000	20
60,000	100,000	35
100,000	150,000	50
150,000	200,000	65
200,000	250,000	80
250,000		100

- Based on the cumulative adult steelhead counts posted (75,243 total and 19,999 unclipped), the trigger this year is *a rolling 3-day average of less than 35 combined and 10 unclipped adult steelhead counts at Lower Granite Dam, on or after December 1.*
- Planned Steps
 - Expect to begin Zero Gen Flexibility Operations once the trigger is met.
 - NOAA will stand ready and watch the averages.
 - Kelsey Swieca will be the point person for any additional information.
 - TMT will receive an email from NOAA Fisheries when the trigger has been met. Once the email is received the Action Agencies will then have the flexibility to implement the zero generation operation.

4. Additional Topics

Morrill asked Lisa Wright, Corps, to bring up the 10-day meteorological data. He said that we have some rain coming through consistently over the next couple of days and we have a couple of dry days toward the end of the 10-day period. He said that we have another storm in the forecast, and we will see what that brings us. We are going to continue to see more moisture coming into the region, particularly on the west side.

Morrill said that the calendar shows a TMT meeting scheduled on December 31. He asked if that meeting was firm.

Stranz said that in the past TMT has cancelled that meeting because people are celebrating.

Morrill said that was what he thought too. He said that he still saw it there so he thought he would ask. Morrill said that there may be a need for additional coordination on initiating Chum Incubation.

Norris said that he was hoping that TMT could coordinate that on December 17.

Morrill said that we may be able to, or we may not, but TMT will be able to work together as they have done in the past to address that coordination.

Stranz said that TMT would check in on whether we need the December 31 meeting at the December 17 TMT meeting.

Stranz added that the TMT Year End Review meeting is not being done this year. She apologized if the community was looking forward to it.

5. Set agenda for next meeting – *Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

- a. Coordinate Chum Incubation Operation
- b. Operations Review

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	
Oregon	
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	
Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	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 (BPA)	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Tom Conning, Tiffany Stoeckig-Dixon, Steve Lee, Leah Hamilton, Sam Beaurivage, Catherine Dudgeon, Eric Chow

BPA – Tammy Mackey

BOR – Ryan Fosness

NOAA – Emi Melton

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

EKI – Eve James, Travis Togo, Eddie Sparks

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

PSE – John Chandler, Jessica

FPC – Erin Cooper

PGE – Phil DeVol

Avista – Steve Lentini, Patrick Maher

Douglas PUD – Andrew Gingerich

Unaffiliated – Cory Hill, Mike Buchko