

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
February 25, 2026
Facilitator’s Summary
Facilitation Team: Donna Silverberg & 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/2026/>. 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 February 11 meeting with no additional edits; the official meeting minutes were approved pending a minor context edit at the top of page 3 to a statement from Brian Marotz, MT.

Chum Operation - Doug Baus, Corps, reported on the current conditions and forecasts for chum. The chum incubation phase (as coordinated by TMT) will continue through April 9 at midnight, unless otherwise coordinated with TMT.

WY observed precipitation in the Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam (IHR) is 11.2 inches, or 96% of normal; the Columbia River mainstem above The Dalles (TDA) is 15 inches, or 102% of normal, and the Willamette River Basin above Portland is 35.4 inches, or 84% of normal.

Doug highlighted the uniqueness of this year’s climate conditions relating to deviations from normal. The Snake River Basin above IHR has been 4.8° F above average for the current month, and 4.5° F above for the season, and the Columbia River mainstem above TDA has been 3.8° F above average for the current month, 4° F above for the season.

Bonneville Dam (BON) at 0700 hours this morning had a tailwater elevation of 18.0 feet with 203 kcfs outflow. The RFC inflow forecast over the next 10-day period ranges from a high of 216 kcfs on February 26 and a low of 179 kcfs on March 4.

The 6-10-day climate outlook shows a probability of above average temperatures, with variable precipitation: northern Washington has a probability of above average precipitation, near normal in Washington/northern Idaho/northwest Montana, and below average in Oregon/Idaho. The 8-14-day outlook shows a similar pattern for above average temperatures, but a probability of above average precipitation in the northern Columbia Basin and near normal in southern Oregon.

BPA, Reclamation, NOAA, and WA had nothing further to report.

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 March 11, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

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. February 11 Facilitator Summary and Minutes

- Brian Marotz, MT, had an edit on the top of Page 3 of the minutes to remove some of the extra description around his comment.

2. Chum Operations – Doug Baus, Corps NWD; Tony Norris, BPA; Chris Runyan, BOR; Kelsey Swieca, NOAA Fisheries; and Charles Morrill, WA

a. Chum Incubation Phase Coordination

- Effective, Friday, December 26, 2025, at 1300 hours, the Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater elevation is 11.4 feet during all hours through April 9, at 2359 hours.

b. NWRFC Monthly Precipitation Table (February)

- Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam
 - Observed inches: 11.2 inches
 - Percent of Normal: 96%
- Columbia River Basin above The Dalles
 - Observed inches: 15 inches
 - Percent of Normal: 102%
- Willamette River Basin above Portland
 - Observed inches: 35.4 inches
 - Percent of Normal: 84%

c. NWRFC Monthly Temperature Table – Deviation from Normal

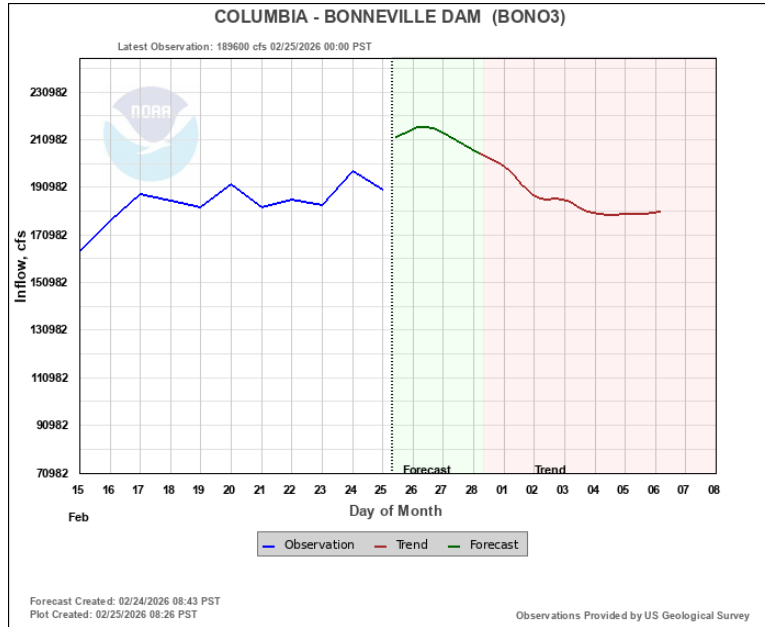
- Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam
 - Monthly Deviation: +4.8°F above normal
 - *Seasonal Deviation:* +4.5°F above normal
- Columbia River Basin above The Dalles
 - Monthly Deviation: +3.8°F above normal
 - *Seasonal Deviation:* +4.0°F above normal

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

- Total Outflow (Hour 7): 203 kcfs

- Tailwater Elevation: 18.0 feet

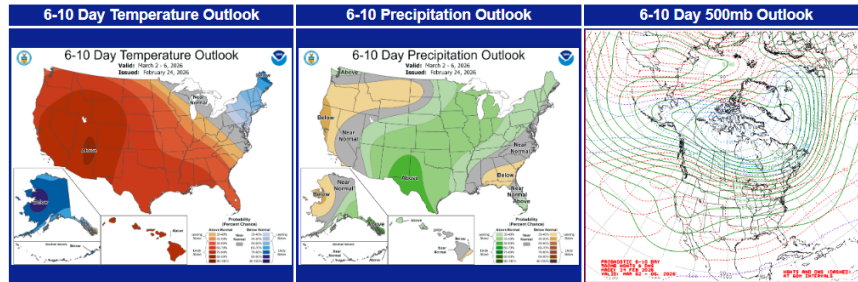
e. NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (10-day) - *Baus*



- Low: 179 kcfs (March 4)
- High: 216 kcfs (February 26)

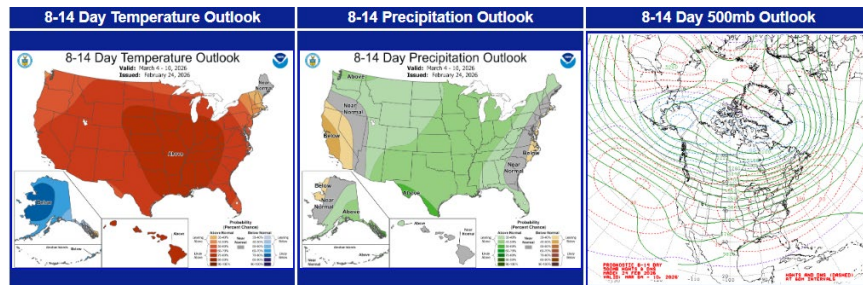
f. NWRFC Climate Forecast

6 – 10 Day



- Temperature
 - Forecasted probability of above average temperatures.
- Precipitation
 - Some variability
 - Northern Washington – probability of above average precipitation
 - Washington, northern Idaho and NW Montana – narrow band of near normal precipitation
 - Oregon and Idaho – probability of below average precipitation

8 – 14 Day



- Temperature
 - Probability of above average temperature
 - Precipitation
 - Northern Columbia Basin – Probability of above average precipitation.
 - Southern Oregon – a narrow band of probability of near normal precipitation.
3. **Set agenda for next meeting – *Wednesday, March 11, 2026***
- Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams
- a. Chum Update
 - b. Official Water Supply Forecast

Today's Attendees:

| Agency | TMT Representative(s) |
|---|--|
| NOAA Fisheries | Kelsey Swieca |
| 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, Tom Iverson |
| Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) | Chris Runyan |
| Army Corps of Engineers (COE) | Doug Baus (Chair), Aaron Marshall, Lisa Wright |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service | |
| 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 – Alexis Mills, Christopher Peery, Leah Hamilton, Kasi Underhill, Patricia Madson

BPA – Jesse Kintz

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Donna Silverberg (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

EKI – Eve James

AVA – Mike Dillon, Steve Lentini

Douglas Co. PUD – Andrew Gingerich

PGE – Phil DeVol

FPC – Erin Cooper, Noah Campbell

Grant PUD – Shaun Harrington

Unaffiliated – Dewey Palmer, Thomas Ristevski, Connor Milne, Sarah McCue, Shea Frantz