

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

April 1, 2026

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/2026/>. Suggested edits for the summary are welcome and can be sent to Colby at colby@dsconsult.co.

Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes

TMT Members will review the March 25 TMT meeting summary and minutes at the April 8 meeting.

Chum Operation

The chum incubation phase (as coordinated by TMT) will continue through April 9 at 2359 hours.

Doug reported on current conditions and forecasts. Water Year (WY) observed precipitation in the Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam (IHR) is 13.3 inches, or 92% of normal (through March 31); the Columbia River mainstem above The Dalles is 18.3 inches, or 102% normal.

For observed temperatures, the Snake River Basin above IHR is 6.8°F above average in April and 7.1°F above average in March. The Columbia River mainstem above The Dalles is 4.5°F above average for April and 4.9°F above average for March.

BON at 0700 hours this morning had a tailwater elevation of 19.4 feet, with 237 kcfs outflow. The RFC inflow forecast over the next 10-day period shows a low of 217 kcfs on April 7 and a high of 232 kcfs on April 4.

The 6-10-day climate outlook shows a probability of above average temperatures throughout the basin. Regarding precipitation, the forecast has more variability, with a probability of below average precipitation in western regions, normal precipitation in the central portions of the basin, and above average precipitation in the northwest section of Montana. The 8-14-day forecast shows similar temperature and precipitation trends.

Chris Runyan, Reclamation, noted that this year's chum operation went well, with plenty of water for the last four months; flows only had to be managed to meet chum elevations in November 2025.

Grand Coulee Drum Gate Maintenance Update

Chris reported on Grand Coulee (GCL) drum gate maintenance, noting that maintenance this year includes sandblasting and painting gates, replacing drains and drain fittings, upstream and downstream seals on gates 1, 2, 7, and 8, and inspecting hinge pins. Even setting up the temporary catwalks to conduct the maintenance is a significant amount of work. Chris expected that the maintenance work would be complete by May 11, utilizing the full 8-week period.

Draft Spring Spill Priority List

Dan Turner, Corps, presented the draft spring spill priority list (SPL) for lack of load/lack of market spill. FPAC did not have any concerns or changes at this time. The SPL is a living document, and TMT can make modifications as needed during the season.

Set Agenda for Next TMT Meeting

The group set the following agenda items for the April 8 TMT meeting:

- Final chum update for the season
- Water supply forecast (early bird?) and FRM requirements
- Operations review – including smolt passage and information on hatchery releases
- Dworshak (DWR) operations and TDG

Salmon Managers noted that DWR operations and TDG were important issues to discuss during the session, as they had real-time questions and recommendations to provide the Corps. The Corps requested that TMT follow the new process outlined at the March 25 RIOG meeting, which requires AAs to stick to topics that are on the agenda and table discussion on additional items for future meetings. Due to the urgency from salmon managers' perspective, they requested an update via unscheduled TMT meeting on April 2. The Corps will take up the request internally and circle back to TMT via email. ***[Facilitator's Note: Following the meeting, an unscheduled TMT meeting was calendared for 2pm on April 2.]***

There was a request to have 'operations review' and 'other' as standing items on all TMT agendas to allow for in-season management of non-court ordered operations.

Emily noted that the intention is for the TMT agenda to be posted by close of business on Mondays prior to TMT meetings. On Tuesdays, FPAC will review the agenda and bring any additional agenda items to the pre-TMT coordination. During pre-TMT, additional agenda items will be suggested, allowing time for internal coordination prior to Wednesday TMT meetings. Emily thanked the TMT for their flexibility while they work to implement (and identify needs) of the new process.

Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members

The broader TMT community asked:

1. How can we listen to the other meetings if the TMT agenda is going to be curtailed?
 - a. Emily clarified that per the AAs, moving forward, TMT agendas will not include items that are associated with the recent court order. TMT will discuss other in-season management; however, agenda items will need to be included on the agenda ahead of the meeting so that TMT members can go through their internal processes to coordinate.
2. Will the written summary of operations be available online or only provided to TMT members?
 - a. Monthly FOP implementation reports will be available via the TMT website. The updated FOP and FPP will be posted on the TMT website prior to April 3.

**An unscheduled TMT meeting will be on April 2 at 2PM PST.
The next regularly scheduled TMT meeting will be on April 8 at 9AM PST.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, April 1, 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) March 25 Facilitator Summary and Minutes

- No minutes available
- TMT will review next week.

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

a) Chum Incubation Phase Coordination

- Chum incubation operation will end as coordinated on April 9 at 2359 hours

b) NWRFC Water Year Precipitation Table (Oct 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)

- Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam
 - Observed inches: 13.3 inches
 - Percent of Normal: 92%
- Columbia River Basin above The Dalles Dam
 - Observed inches: 18.3 inches
 - Percent of Normal: 102%

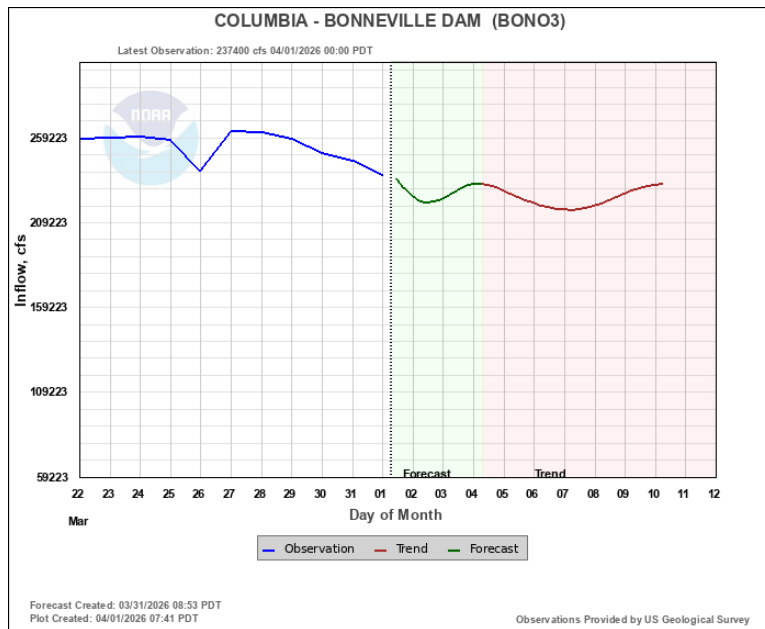
c) NWRFC Monthly Temperature Table – Deviation from Normal

- Snake River Basin above Ice Harbor Dam
 - April Deviation: +6.8°F above normal
 - March Deviation: +7.1°F above normal
 - *Seasonal Deviation:* +4.9°F above normal
- Columbia River Basin above The Dalles Dam
 - April Deviation: +4.5°F above normal
 - March Deviation: +4.9°F above normal
 - *Seasonal Deviation:* +4.1°F above normal

1) Bonneville Dam (BON) –Project Data (Wednesday, April 1, Hour 7)

- Tailwater Elevation: 19.4 feet
- Total Outflow : 237.0 kcfs

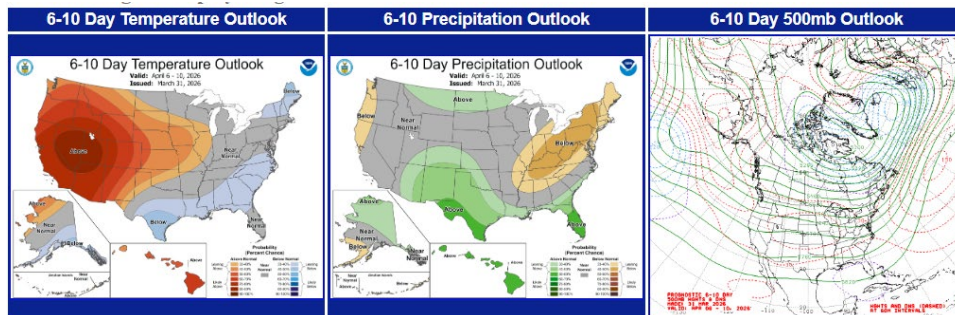
d) NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (10-day)



- Low: 217 kcfs (April 7)
- High: 232 kcfs (April 4)

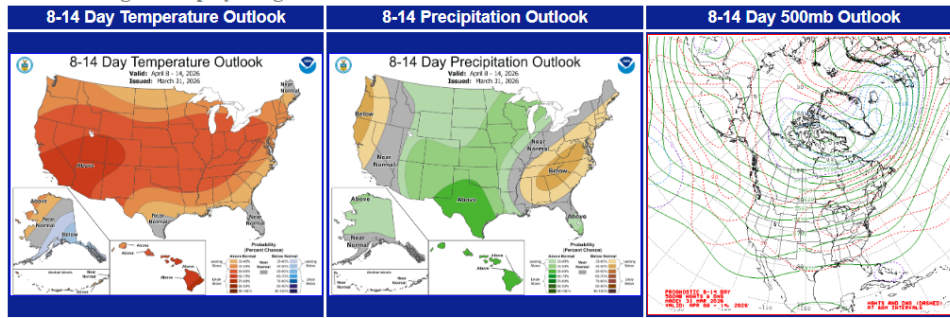
e) NWRFC Climate Forecast

6 – 10 Day



- Temperature
 - Probability of above average for the entire Columbia Basin.
- Precipitation
 - Probability of below average in the western portion of the Columbia Basin.
 - Probability of near normal in the central portion of the Columbia Basin.
 - Probability of above average in northwestern Montana.

8 – 14 Day



- Temperature
 - Probability above average temperatures
- Precipitation
 - Probability of below average in the western portion of the Columbia Basin.
 - Probability of near normal in the central portion of the Columbia Basin.
 - Probability of above average in eastern portion of the Columbia Basin.

f) Reclamation Recap – *Runyan*

- It has been a fairly easy year. We only had to manage for the flows in November and the last four months flows have well exceeded the threshold.
- There was plenty of water this year for Chum.
- Good news.

3. GCL Drum Gate Maintenance Update – *Chris Runyan, BOR*

- Runyan said that GCL maintenance is ongoing.
- Lots of work happening:
 - Sandblasting and repainting three gates.
 - Swapping out drains and drain fittings.
 - Upstream and downstream seals on Gates 1, 2, 7, and 8.
 - Inspecting hinge pins.
- Catwalks
 - The catwalks that had to be put on the gates so that they can do the work are a significant work effort.
 - Each gate is 140 feet wide, and the catwalks come in 20-foot sections.
 - Seven catwalk sections per gate, and there are catwalks across nine gates this year, or 63 catwalk sections.
 - Prior to getting to 1255' in the middle of March, they were working to get the catwalks ready to go, so that when GCL is at 1255' they are able to start doing maintenance.
- GCL is projecting completion on May 11, 2026.

- Full 8 weeks.
- Any updates will be passed along.

4. **Draft Spring Spill Priority List** – *Dan Turner, Corps-NWD; Tom Lorz, CRITFC*

- Spring Spill List – *Turner*
 - It is the annual time of year to receive input from TMT for the order of Spring Spill Priority List.
 - Reminder: This is a list to manage lack of load spill to spread to TDG out amongst various Projects so that there is not a hot spot in TDG when we must spill for lack of load.
 - Order is most clearly stated in Level 2.
 - Same order used last year for Spring Spill.
 - Reminder: This is a living document, and TMT can make changes whenever they feel appropriate.
- FPAC Update – *Lorz*
 - FPAC looked at it briefly yesterday.
 - Nothing appeared off at this point.
 - If modifications need to occur, they will address as they see fit.
 - With the potential operations that are planned for this year and the amount of flow coming Lorz did not expect to see this too much.

5. **Set agenda for next meeting**

Lorz requested that TMT have the Operations Review agenda item recurring on the agenda to allow a space for TMT to talk about things. He said that was a recommendation for moving forward. He said that the Fish Managers (FM) also have a question about current spill TDG at DWR. He said that he had not looked yet this morning to see how that was going. He said that he hoped that the Corps could look at that and let the FMs know.

| *Charles Morrill (Unverified)9:19 AM*

| *I do have a question*

| *Can we expect to see an updated FOP and FPP this week as expressed last week in the TMT/RIOG meeting?*

Stranz added agenda items for next week DWR TDG and Operations Review, ideally as a standing agenda item moving forward.

Jonathan Ebel, ID, said that the DWR TDG topic should probably be discussed today given the current operations at DWR. He said that it was within the purview of this and some explanation as to why the outflow from the regulating outlets in its relationship to TDG below the dam had changed significantly than past years. He asked if the Corps had someone that was prepared to talk about that.

Aaron Marshall, Corps, asked if TMT could have a conversation offline or put it on the agenda for next week.

Ebel said that it was happening now.

Stranz said that she knew that it was a frustration to everybody. She said that we are going through a new process of how agendas at TMT are built and how they move forward. She said that what she had heard from the Action Agencies (AA) last week, when everyone attended RIOG, was that we stick to the topics that are on the TMT agenda and FM have an opportunity at pre-TMT meetings to put topics on the agenda and because this was not added Stranz thought it would be difficult for the AA to respond.

Ebel told Stranz yesterday the Corps went to 16.5 at DWR, which 3k higher than previous 110% TDG below the dam.

Stranz said that she guessed that Ebel could get an answer, but she did not know that it was going to happen right now, live on TMT. She said that was what the process needed to be and to clarify how it was going to go.

Lorz asked for clarity because it was news to him that it had to be on the agenda. He said that it was not described at RIOG, that you could only talk about what is on the agenda. He said that was why we have the adaptive management clause, to be able to adapt and modify. He said that he thought it was also an Army creed too, adapt, persevere, overcome. He said as things come up, we are going to need to be able to talk about these things, so it is going to be frustrating for us today, because the FM noticed that the TDG below DWR is above 110%. He said that they were hoping that the Corps were going to do something about that. He said that it started yesterday and it is continuing today so the FM are hoping that it is going to be modified. He said going forward TMT has got to at least put an 'Other' on the agenda to catch these items that come up and that kind of stuff later in the week, or late on Monday. He said that was why we should keep Operations on there so we can talk operations. He said if it has to be in ink on the agenda then we need to have the agenda be much more full than just the bare minimum, we need to give ourselves room and flexibility to be able to talk, otherwise TMT is going to grind to a halt really quickly and he did not think that was where anyone envisioned this going.

| *Charles Morrill (Unverified)*

| *this may not be allowed* 🙄

| *Agree with Tom L*

Stranz said that she heard Lorz, but looking back at her notes from RIOG, it was said that the discussion at TMT will follow the agenda. New real-time issues will need to be tabled for a future agenda and that the hope is that there will be more time put into developing the agenda so that we can stick to it at TMT meetings. She said that she totally understood that this is a new process and TMT was going to have some bumps along the way. She said that this is a perfect example of a bump that we all can learn from and it sounds like there is some information that needs to get back to the TMT members. TMT will stick to the process right now so that we can create the habit around the new process. She said that she recognized that it is real-time, and she also recognized that FM wanted a

response sooner than next week. She said that TMT will add it to the agenda for next week so that we have it. She asked Aaron and Jessica what the process would look like for communication between now and next Wednesday.

| *stelzer (Unverified)9:25 AM*

| *How can we listen in to the other meetings if the agenda is going to be curtailed.*

Marshall said that the Corps would likely have additional updates, more information to come, and they would likely distribute it via email prior to next week's TMT meeting. He said that they would have the official FRM information before then and that it would be very informative for this conversation.

Ebel said that he would recommend the Corps get in touch with the Nez Perce Tribe regarding their water quality regulations.

Marshall said that he wanted to add that the Corps had heard the FMs comments and they will take them back. He said that the Corps understand the FMs concerns and they will take them back and have a discussion internally.

Stranz thanked the group for being flexible in the awkward moment of figuring out the process moving forward.

Van Dyke noted some details that are unusual in the adaptive process, and the way that we talk during the year seems to be not being adhered to very well in his opinion. He said that he was curious if TMT could call a special meeting on the DWR topic for later today or tomorrow.

Marshall said that he heard Van Dyke's request and the AAs would have some discussion internally and would get back to TMT on the request.

Ebel asked to add talking about the Water Supply Forecast, even if it is an early bird, as well as Flood Risk Management Requirements to next week's TMT agenda.

Lorz said to add to the AAs discussions the ESP came out yesterday and the FM think that there are opportunities to smooth and have better operations at DWR. He said that he encouraged the Corps to take that back and see what they can do to improve things, i.e., see about shifting water into May. He said that the FMs are looking forward to TMT's next meeting because they were hoping that the Corps could look at either deviations or not having to draft out an additional 10 feet just to have to, in May, slam it back the other way and do a big refill. He said that TMT would talk more about this next week. He said that he thought that Ebel's idea and ours are just to keep operations on every week, keep known topics on so that we have the space to talk about them. He asked if the Corps was going to get back to the FMs about trying to set up a special meeting sometime shortly, either today or tomorrow.

Marshall said that the Corps would follow back shortly on that.

Stranz said that she saw the question in chat, "How can we listen in to the other meetings if the agenda is going to be curtailed.". She clarified that the agenda is not going to be curtailed, TMT is just shifting the process for building the agenda. She added that the agenda is not going to include agenda items on court ordered operations. TMT will

discuss other TMT operations that are outside of the injunction, and those agenda items just need to be clarified ahead of time so that TMT representatives can go through their internal processes to coordinate.

Runyan asked for an agenda item for smolt passage, what it is looking like and what the numbers are. He also asked for hatchery release timings so that the AAs have an idea of when that was happening for awareness.

Stranz asked when Runyan says smolt passage if he was talking about the update that we typically get during the Fish Review Swieca typically provides about upstream and downstream migrants.

Runyan asked Swieca if she already touched on that with smolt. He said that he was looking at the smolt index figures.

Swieca said yes, that is the information that she provides in the fish update right now at the every other week cadence. She said that they could add additional information about hatchery release timing. She said to also note that it is in some respects captured in the numbers at the Projects.

Runyan said that he thought it would be helpful because then they could understand what is coming out of the Snake and the Mainstem. He said a bit more detail on that would be important.

Stranz said that it had also been helpful in the past when people needed to know ahead of time if there was going to be a big smolt release for operations. She said that you do not necessarily see those in the numbers until later.

Ebel said that there are fish in the System. He said that between March 24 and March 29 there were 3000 PIT tags detected at Lower Granite Dam. They are about half hatchery fish and half wild fish from all over the Snake Basin.

6. Questions from the Public

Kate Self, NPCC, said that she had a follow up on what they had heard from RIOG and after about the written summaries that are going to start being available through the Corps. She said that she wondered if those were going to be posted publicly on the TMT website or were they only going to TMT members.

Marshall said that those would be the monthly FOP implementation reports and they will be available via the TMT website, [FOP Reports](#).

| *Wright, Lisa S CIV USARMY CENWD (USA)9:36 AM*

Responded to "Charles Morrill4/1/2026 9:21 AM. Can we expect to see an updated FOP and FPP this week as expressed last week in the TMT/RIOG meeting?"

| *Yes, prior to April 3.*

7. Agenda – **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

- 1) Chum Update
 - 2) Operations Review
 - 3) DWR
 - 4) Water Supply Forecast, FRM Requirements
- Action Item: The Corps will circle back to TMT regarding communication on DWR and respond to the request for a special meeting on it later today or tomorrow.

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)	Tom Lorz
Yakama Nation	Keely Murdoch, Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	Chris Runyan, Eric Rothwell
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 (NPT)	
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Megan Biljan, Christopher Peery, Jessika Solleder, Tiffany Dixon, Dan Turner, Catherine Dudgeon, Leah Hamilton, Eric Chow

BOR – Ryan Fosness

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator)

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

GCPUD – Joseph Akers, Shaun Harrington

PSE – Jessica, Mitch

PGE – Phil DeVol

CHPM – Lance Beyer, Jay Fintz

AVA – Steve Lentini, Patrick Maher, Mike Dillon

FPC – Noah Campbell

NPCC – Kate Self

Columbia Basin Bulletin –

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

S&P Global Energy – Kassia Micek

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Unaffiliated – Mike Buchko, Rohit Somu, stelzer, Eric Wood