

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

April 8, 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 approved the official meeting minutes and facilitator's summaries from the March 25 and April 1 TMT meetings. Minutes and Summary from the April 2 unscheduled meeting are pending and will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting.

Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps provided the last chum report of the season. The chum incubation phase (as coordinated by TMT) will continue through April 9 at 2359 hours. BON at 0700 hours this morning had a tailwater elevation of 17.6 feet, with 216 kcfs. The RFC inflow forecast over the next 10-day period shows a low today of 199 kcfs and a high of 222 kcfs on April 15.

BPA and Reclamation had nothing further to add. WA and NOAA expressed appreciation for coordination throughout the chum operation.

Official April Water Supply Forecasts

Chris Runyan, Reclamation, reported the official April water supply forecasts (WSF) for Bureau of Reclamation. He started with a basin update for Hungry Horse (HGH), noting that snowpack varies throughout the basin; lower elevations are near 50% of average and some higher elevations on the east and west sides are currently nearing 110% of average. Water Year (WY) to date runoff into the reservoir has been 221% of average. Precipitation in the South Fork of the Flathead WY to date is 104% of average; March was 146%.

Official April through July was 837 kaf, or 93% of average; April through August was 1,898 kaf, or 93% of average; May through July was 1,432 kaf, or 86% of average; and May through September (drives FRM) was 1,539 kaf, or 86% of average. Minimum flows are 3,500 cfs at Columbia Falls and 900 cfs below the dam.

Kasi Underhill, Corps, reported the official April WSF for Corps of Engineers projects, noting that forecasts came up and then back down by the official forecast day of April 3:

- **The Dalles (TDA):** NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 83.9 maf, or 94% of average.
- **Lower Granite (LWG):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 15.0 maf, or 73% of average.
- **Libby (LIB):** Corps April runoff forecast is 7.1 maf, or 117% of average.
- **Dworshak (DWR):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 2 maf, or 81% of average.

Kasi also reviewed project FRM requirements, noting they will be posted online by the end of tomorrow.

- **LIB:** end-of-April FRM will be 2,363.6 feet.
- **HGH:** April 15 will be 3,546.4 feet and April 30 will be 3,546 feet.
- **Grand Coulee (GCL):** April 15 will be 1,266.2 feet and April 30 will be 1,255.3 feet.
- **DWR:** April 15 will be 1,575.5 feet and April 30 will be 1,570.6 feet.

Dworshak Update

Jessika Solleder, Corps, reported on current operations and plans for DWR. Current forebay elevation is 1,571.36 feet and outflows are 15 kcfs (reduced yesterday morning). The project has a planned reduction to full powerhouse (~10kcfs) by Friday evening, likely through April 14, with an end-of-April target of ~15 kcfs, and a lower, flat outflow scenario of ~7.5 kcfs in May.

The RFC 10-day forecast for the Clearwater Basin shows 1-2.5 inches of precipitation (more at higher elevations) expected as a rain and snow mix; above 5,000 feet could see snow next weekend. Overall, recent WSF have trended downward since late March, leading to reduced outflows at the project. The preliminary/tentative end-of-April FRM for DWR is 1,570.6 feet, although this has yet to be posted.

Snowpack observations from the snow flight on April 7 show notable year-to-year reductions from 2025-2026 at multiple locations and elevations. There is significantly less snowpack in many lower-elevation locations, than higher elevation areas. A more detailed story map and analysis will be presented at the next TMT meeting. Jessika welcomed feedback on the proposed flow targets and appreciated ongoing TMT partner coordination. The scheduled June snow flight could be conducted sooner to provide timelier data.

Preliminary findings from the snowpack conditions and the updated forecasts have influenced the Corps' decision to lower outflows now (reducing powerhouse capacity) and the more cautious approach for flow targets in May.

Forthcoming SOR for Spring Flow Augmentation

Tom Lorz, CRITFC/FPAC Chair, reported on the forthcoming systems operational request (SOR) for spring flow augmentation, noting that final edits are expected by the end of today or Thursday morning. The proposed implementation date in the SOR is April 17. Action Agencies (AAs) emphasized the need for time to review SOR details, rerun ESP traces, and coordinate internally; earlier SOR distribution may reduce the need for any unscheduled meetings for further discussion.

Salmon Managers emphasized forecast variability, and that numbers in the SOR may change as ESP traces update. ID and WA asked AAs to evaluate the SOR conceptually as well as numerically due to these forecast swings. They also expressed concern that waiting to discuss the SOR until the next scheduled TMT meeting may not leave enough time for implementation should AAs decide to move forward with the request. AAs will review the final submitted SOR and decide whether an unscheduled TMT meeting is needed or if discussion can be deferred to the April 15 meeting. Any unscheduled meeting will be communicated to the TMT via email from the Corps.

Non-Court Ordered Operations Review

Storage Reservoirs – Chris reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **HGH:** rain and snow showers will return to the Flathead Basin this weekend, with more seasonal temperatures expected by Sunday and Monday. Inflows continue to recede at the project, coming in yesterday at 4.5 kcfs, and 160% of average for the last week. Outflows averaged 5.9 kcfs, stream flow at Columbia Falls was 13 kcfs, and midnight elevation was 3,545.3 feet (14.7 feet from full). HGH currently remains at about 120% of average storage. Chris noted the preliminary end-of-April FRM has yet to be finalized by the Corps, but tentatively looks to be around 3,546 feet. Inflows are coming up by the end of the month, 1-2 kcfs before the weekend, and will continue to operate to meet project FRM; high outflows are expected for May and June.
- **GCL:** inflows yesterday were 112.2 kcfs, outflows were 85.6 kcfs, and midnight elevation was 1,253.3 feet (36.7 feet from full). The project has filled about 2 feet since last week. Preliminary end-of-April FRM is about 1,256.7 feet and will be finalized soon. Drum date maintenance at

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GCL continues and is expected to take the full 8 weeks; on Monday, May 11 the project will release to refill above 1,255 feet.

Kasi reported on Corps of Engineers projects:

- **LIB:** current elevation is 2,376.6 feet, with average 1-day outflows of 10 kcfs and current outflows of 19.5 kcfs. LIB is holding at full powerhouse for all available units. The April-August WSF forecast is 7.1 maf, which results in the end-of-April FRM target of 2,363.6 feet.
- **Albeni Falls (ALF):** current elevation is 2,054.65, with average 1-day inflows of 29.9 kcfs, and current outflows of 38 kcfs. Currently, 3 gates are open at the project.
- **DWR:** midnight elevation was 1,571.4 feet, with 1-day average inflows of 11.3 kcfs and current outflows of 16.1 kcfs. Kasi reiterated the preliminary end-of-April FRM of 1,570.6 feet, which was 0.8 feet from the midnight elevation.

Fish – Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, reported that juvenile salmon and steelhead are moving out of the tributaries through Columbia River mainstem projects, with passage indices at LWG ranging from 7,000-28,000 yearling Chinook and 3,000-27,000 steelhead per day. At Bonneville (BON), passage is around 5,000 yearling Chinook and 200 steelhead per day. Sub-yearling Chinook and coho are also moving through the system.

Adult passage is increasing as upstream migration begins. Over the past week, BON averaged 23 spring Chinook and 18 steelhead per day, and LWG averaged 15 steelhead per day with a couple spring Chinook. There was nothing to report on lamprey.

Chris requested further clarity on how juvenile passage upstream from McNary is calculated and reported, and where to find data to help understand the benefits of potential flow releases from GCL on fish downstream of the confluence. Kelsey clarified that the juvenile numbers are indices (sample-based estimates), rather than exact counts. Monitoring schedules differ by project, and blanks in tables can reflect monitoring sites not yet operational. DART and the Fish Passage Center (FPC) are primary data sources.

Charles Morrill, WA, emphasized confidence in long-term CSS data and travel time analyses showing that increasing mid-Columbia flows prior to May 15 benefits spring migration for both mid-Columbia and downstream populations; from a fish perspective, the concept for a hydrograph increase is supported by historic data. The interpretation of indices is nuanced, and trade-offs exist (benefits to earlier migrants may reduce later-season flows and potentially affect sub-yearlings). Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation, noted that DART publishes indices for Rocky Reach and Rock Island and flagged new PIT-tag detectors that may provide additional timing data.

Fish Managers offered space at a future TMT Process meeting to discuss and explain index calculations, monitoring schedules, interpretation nuances, and more so non-fish specialists/AAs can better understand fish life history and behaviors. Kelsey will send Chris the DART link for upper Columbia passage indices.

Power System – BPA had no updates to report.

Set Agenda for Next TMT Meeting

The group set the following agenda items for April 15, TMT Members can send additional items to Doug or Emily Stranz.

1. DWR Update
2. SOR Discussion

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3. Any changes or updates to the water supply forecasts

Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members

There were no questions or comments from non-TMT Members.

The next scheduled TMT meeting will be on April 15 at 9AM PST.
A DS Consulting Process Meeting will follow the TMT Business Meeting.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
 Technical Management Team
 OFFICIAL MINUTES
 Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

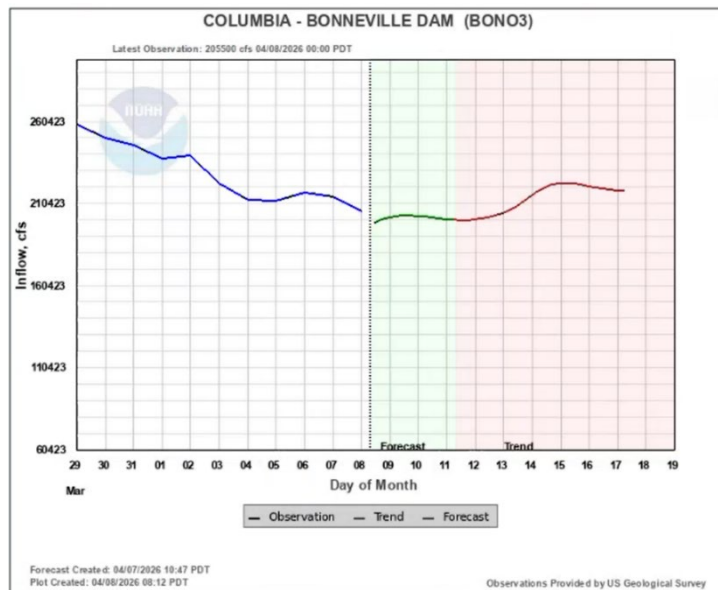
Today’s TMT meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and conference call, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. Minutes were collected by Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group). A list of today’s attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

1. Review Summary and Minutes – Emily Stranz, DS Consulting

- a) March 25, April 1 (April 2 pending)
 - Summary and Minutes were approved for March 25 and April 1.

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
 - The Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater elevation is 11.4 feet during all hours through April 9 at 2359 hours.
- b) Bonneville Dam (BON) – Hourly Data
 - Total Outflow (Hour 7): 216 kcfs
 - Tailwater Elevation: 17.6 feet
- c) NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (10-day)



- Low: 199 kcfs (April 8)
- High: 222 kcfs (April 15)

Charles Morrill, WA, thanked the Corps for the coordination over the season. He said that he thought it was effective and productive.

Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, echoed Morrill's statements about gratitude for the productive season.

3. Official April Water Supply Forecast – Chris Runyan, BOR, and Kasi Underhill, Corps-NWD

a) WSF

Reclamation Update

- Basin Update
 - Snowpack varies in the basin
 - Lower elevations near 50% of median
 - Higher elevations (east and west sides) are near 110% of median.
 - Water YTD Runoff: 221% of average
 - Precipitation – South Fork of Flathead
 - Water YTD: 104% of median
 - March: 146% of median
- Hungry Horse (HGH)
 - April – July
 - 1837 kaf
 - 93% of average
 - April – August
 - 1898 kaf
 - 93% of average
 - May – July
 - 1432 kaf
 - 86% of average
 - May – September
 - 1539 kaf
 - 86% of average
 - Minimum Flows downstream HGH (Set by March Forecast)
 - Columbia Falls
 - 3500 cfs
 - Below HGH (South Fork)
 - 900 cfs

Corps Update

- The Dalles (TDA)
 - April to August
 - 84 maf
 - 94% of average
- Lower Granite (LWG)
 - April to July
 - 15 maf
 - 73% of average
- Libby (LIB)
 - April Runoff Forecast
 - 7.1 maf
 - 117% of average
- Dworshak (DWR)
 - April to July
 - 2 maf
 - 81% of average

b) FRM

FRM Requirement Update

- FRM Requirements will be posted on the TMT website on April 9 by the end of day.
- LIB
 - End of April: 2363.6 feet
- HGH
 - April 15: 3546.4 feet
 - April 30: 3546.0 feet
- GCL
 - April 15: 1266.2 feet
 - April 30: 1255.3 feet
- DWR
 - April 15: 1575.5 feet
 - April 30: 1570.6 feet

4. Dworshak Update – Jessika Solleder, Corps-NWW

a) DWR Hourly Data

- Current Forebay Elevation: 17.6 feet
- Current Outflow: 15 kcfs

b) Forecasting

- Forecasting has shown DWR’s WSF volume has fallen since the end of March.

c) Precipitation Forecast

- Current forecast in the Clearwater Basin predicts up to ~2.5 inches of precipitation over the next ten days, with as little as 1 inch at the lower elevations.

d) RFC 10-day Forecast

- Precipitation will fall as a mix of rain and snow occurring only at the higher elevations (>5000 feet) on Sunday and Monday of next week.
- Everything else will fall as rain at the lower elevations.

e) Preliminary Snow Flight Overview

- Oscar Espinoza and Jessika Solleder took the snow flight on April 7.
- SNOTEL Slides
 - Cook Mountain near Crater Meadows (~6000’ elevation)
 - Large difference between April 2025 and April 2026.
 - Junction Mountain b/t Cool Creek and Crater Meadows (~6200’ elevation)
 - Again, there was a visible difference between April 2025 and April 2026.
 - Pot Mountain (~4000’ elevation)
 - Between Chateau Rock and Pot Mountain (~4000’ elevation)
- There will be a story map available like last year available in the coming days and the Corps will provide a more in-depth analysis and presentation from the snow flight at next week’s TMT.

f) Operations at DWR

- In response to the WSF and the snow flight data, DWR began reducing outflow on April 7 in the afternoon.
- DWR will be down to the Full Powerhouse (~10 kcfs) by Friday, April 10, evening.
- DWR Operations – May Current Outlook
 - Tentatively based on the current WSF and insight from the SNOTEL.
 - Current flow targets

Current Targets	April 8 – 14 Avg. Flows	April 15 – 30 Avg. Flows	May Avg. Flows
	9.9 kcfs	15 kcfs	7.5 kcfs

- Full powerhouse capacity: 9.9 kcfs

- Flat flow through May.

Solleder left the discussion open for TMT members to provide input on the operations. She asked if there were any particular dates and flows, she said that she knew that TMT discussed this last week and she would love to open it up to anyone with commentary on this or anything that she had said.

Lorz asked if Solleder knew what DWR's end of month April 30 FRM date elevation was going to be.

Solleder said that it is 1570.6' and it would be posted on April 9 by the end of day.

Underhill agreed and said that it was 0.83 feet from the current elevation at midnight.

Lorz said that the Fish Managers (FM) would probably take a look at that and see if that was still a good strategy or they might ask what the Corps thought about keeping it a little higher. He said that he would talk with his cohorts and see what they thought.

Solleder said great and she would love their feedback. She asked Lorz to reach out whenever they get that conversation wrapped up. She said that she would have more to share about the snow flight next week.

Lorz said he wanted to add that in future years, in the lower flow years we might want to seriously think about moving the snow flights up a little bit because with this information TMT might have made some different decisions sooner. He said that it might be wise in this kind of flow year, where things look questionable, to maybe do them earlier. He said that he knew they did that in the Boise so we might want to follow that lead.

Solleder said that yesterday on the flight she discussed with the NCRS contact about moving their June snow flight up a little bit. She said that they are already looking at that for the season, and she agreed that it was a great point to talk about the flexibility in the dates that we conduct the flights. She said that she was open to that conversation as well.

5. Forthcoming SOR for Spring Flow Augmentation– Tom Lorz, CRITFC/FPAC Chair

a) Update

- Lorz said that he could not get all the comments and all the final edits by yesterday, they will ideally get that in by end of business today or Thursday morning.
- He said that it was up to the Action Agencies (AAs), they should be somewhat aware as TMT had talked about it in the process meetings about what FMs were thinking about.
- Lorz asked if AAs thought that TMT would need a special Friday meeting to talk about it or if they would want to wait until next Tuesday. Once the AAs get it they can let the FMs know what the AAs want to do.

Runyan said that it would be great to see it, that way the AAs can see exactly what is being asked and what is included and how it fits into prior operations then go from there. He said, for Reclamation, that he did not know if we could have a meeting within a day of seeing it, but he would let Lorz know. He said that it would probably be next week.

Lorz said that Runyan was preaching to the choir. He said that he tried desperately to ensure that the FMs got it out yesterday but could not get it done. He said that he feels his pain.

Stranz said that it was okay, TMT would see it when we see it.

Jonathan Ebel, ID, said that the requested date for implementation would be similar to what was discussed, but would be April 17. He asked if the SOR got to the AAs but this afternoon or Thursday, and if it was discussed at TMT on April 15, would it preclude its implementation on April 17 if the AA decided to do it.

Tony Norris, BPA, said that it depended on what was being asked.

Runyan agreed 100%.

Ebel said that they would have to chat, and he thought that they had a good idea.

Runyan said that he would love to see it on paper because the AAs had heard some but seeing it exactly spelled out. He said that Reclamation had a handful of questions to be answered. He asked for FMs to wait and let the AAs see it. He said to get it to the AAs, and that sooner is better, they need to run it all up through the chain and do the analysis and understand the benefits and potential impacts. It just takes a little time so they will move forward as quickly as we can.

Ebel replied, as it also does to try to incorporate the ever-changing information into the answers to the questions that Reclamation has asked the FMs.

Stranz agreed that it takes time to coordinate all of this for everybody. She said that the AAs would possibly get an SOR post-business today or tomorrow. At that point AAs would let us know if it would be helpful to have a meeting on Friday or if TMT would be meeting to discuss the SOR next Wednesday as currently scheduled. She asked if there was anything else that was helpful to talk about right now regarding the SOR.

Morrill said that he would point out that if we wait until next week to discuss this, we would probably have to rerun the ESP traces again because some of the dynamics would change a little bit. He said that if we are ready to go and share it earlier, that is better. He said that this would be a dynamic, ongoing discussion with BOR as we look at the information coming in on a weekly basis.

Ebel said Morrill had made a good point. He told Stranz that he meant that is the struggle that we have got right now. He said, to Runyan's point, the FMs have to put something in so far in advance and are asked for specific numbers that_ He said that he meant that the forecast changed significantly in the last week between the ESP that was provided last week and the one that was received on Monday so it is definitely dynamic. Ebel said that he hoped that the AAs take into account. When they look at the numbers, they will find that the concept and strategy are sound, but the numbers will inevitably be off because from his perspective, the forecasts are swinging all over the place.

Stranz said so once the AAs get it look at it more conceptually than looking at the specific numbers, recognizing that there is fluidity.

Morrill said conceptually our goal is to provide an increasing hydrograph over the time period that we are talking about and that will change as we watch the ESP traces in the forecast.

Stranz said that it was looking like TMT would not take that long today so maybe FPAC will be able to wrap up the SOR and get it to the AAs today. And then moving forward, once the AAs have had a look at it and have done some internal coordination TMT can move forward with getting together to discuss either later this week or next week.

6. Non-Court Ordered Operations Review

a) Storage Reservoirs

Reclamation – Chris Runyan

- Hungry Horse Dam
 - Conditions:
 - Rain and snow showers return this weekend.
 - More seasonal temperatures by Sunday and Monday in the Flathead along with potentially continued unsettled weather.
 - Inflows (04/07): 4.5 kcfs
 - Inflows continue to recede.
 - Inflows (last week): 160% of average
 - Average Outflows: 5.9 kcfs
 - Columbia Falls Streamflow: 13 kcfs
 - Midnight elevation: 3545.3 feet
 - From Full: 14.7 feet
 - Storage: 120% of average
 - Preliminary April 30 FRM: 3546.0 feet
 - Tentative still needs to be finalized by the Corps.
 - Operations:
 - Because inflows look to be coming up by the end of the month, HGH will be looking at increasing a kcfs or two before the weekend.
 - HGH will then operate to meet FRM.
 - Storage looks good for May and June.
- Grand Coulee Dam
 - Inflows (04/07): 112.2 kcfs
 - Outflows: 85.6 kcfs
 - Midnight elevation: 1253.3 feet
 - From Full: 36.7 feet
 - Filled: ~2 feet last week.

- Preliminary April 30 FRM: 1256.7 feet
- April 10 FRM: 1253 feet
 - Based on March Forecast.
- Operation:
 - Hard band at 1250 – 1255’, but as the STP and Forecast are showing, expect to be in the same range as now.
 - Maintenance continues, BOR still expects to take the full 8 weeks, Monday, May 11, GCL will be released to refill about 1255’.

Corps – Kasi Underhill, Corps

- Libby Dam (Lake Koocanusa)
 - Midnight Elevation: 2376.6 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 10 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 19.5 kcfs
 - April – August WSF Runoff: 7.1 maf
 - Preliminary April 30 FRM: 2363.6 feet
 - Operations:
 - Holding full powerhouse, all available units.
- Albeni Falls (Hope Gauge)
 - Midnight Elevation: 2054.6 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 29.9 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 38 kcfs
 - Operations:
 - Three gates are currently open.
- Dworshak Dam
 - Midnight Elevation: 1571.4 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 11.3 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 16.1 kcfs
 - Preliminary April 30 FRM: 1570.6 feet
 - 0.8’ from the midnight elevation.

b) Fish

Salmon – Kelsey Swieca, NOAA

- Juveniles
 - Juvenile Salmon and Steelhead are moving out of the tributaries and through the mainstem Columbia River system Projects in earnest.
 - Yearling Chinook

- LWG: 7000 – 28,000 /day
- BON: 5000 /day
- Steelhead
 - LWG: 3000 – 27,000 /day
 - BON: 200 /day
- Subyearling Chinook and Coho are moving through and out of the System as well.
- Adult Salmon Counts
 - Spring Chinook
 - Passage Index per day
 - Bonneville: 23
 - Lower Granite: a couple
 - Steelhead
 - Passage Index per day
 - Bonneville: 18
 - Lower Granite: 15

Runyan asked Swieca about the yearling Chinook table. He said that there were a lot of fish moving at LWG. He asked about the fish that have made it past LWG and if they had made it to MCN yet.

Swieca said that those were not necessarily zeros, some of the systems become operational at different points in time. She said that the schedule for monitoring is at the bottom of the page. She said that it was essential to first confirm that the Project had started monitoring to ensure that you are interpreting the blanks in the table correctly. She said that on the past day on April 7, there were about 8000 yearling Chinook at LWG and about 1500 of those were at MCN. So they are moving through the system.

Runyan said thank you and because the conversation over the next month will be focused on these fish where should he look to know what is passing upstream of MCN. He said that he saw the Snake River fish there, but where is the best spot to know for the Mainstem of the Columbia above MCN, above the Snake confluence.

Swieca said that he could find some of that data on the DART website. She said that she could send him that data if he was interested. She said that they were not reported on this FPC page, but they may be reported somewhere else on the website, but there is some information on DART for juvenile passage in Mainstem Columbia above the confluence.

Runyan said that he thought that would be helpful. He said that if we start talking about using GCL to help manage flows you want to make sure that we are not just looking at the fish that are coming out of the Snake. He said that he wanted to make sure that we know about the downstream passage of the fish upstream of the Snake as well so that we can really get the benefit to both of the downstream migrants.

Swieca said that she heard what Runyan was saying. She clarified and she said that she thought that Runyan started to get to it at the end of his statement, but all of the fish will see the benefit of the increased flow below the confluence, so yes, releasing flows from the Upper Columbia will not contribute to additional flows in the Snake River but those flow benefits will be received further downstream.

Runyan said that he thought that he mentioned last time, anything about hatchery releases and timings, he would like to know and understand if we are releasing extra water from GCL we know which fish are where and where the benefit is going because we have so many hatcheries in the whole Basin releasing fish, it is not just coming out of the Snake; any information about those fish is key so we are not only seeing data from LWG.

Swieca said that she could be sure to expand. She said that she typically discusses the top of the system which she covers as LWG and the bottom of the system as BON. She said that she could add in some additional discussion at MCN, which would be where all those fish are combined. She said that she could also pull additional information. She asked Runyan to remember that any releases at GCL will benefit all the fish moving out of the system, hatchery and wild, after the confluence.

Morrill added that we do not have the richness in PIT tag detection in the Mid-C to provide any additional data, nor do we have the numbers of PIT tag fish available through the CSS or other ongoing tags, but we do have the history of that data, we have over 30 years of data in the CSS documenting the timing. They have had extensive discussions within FPAC, they are confident in their identification of the timing that would benefit the requested water from GCL for both Mid-Columbia and Snake River fish so his level of confidence in their request is high.

Ebel said that we track the fish so the smolt monitoring program is no longer implemented in terms of tagging at Rock Island. He said to make sure that this does not end up as a quagmire so he would make it really clear. He said that the flows are high enough in the Upper Columbia above the confluence with the Snake. He said that he meant they are not high enough, the fish are still impacted by the slowdown of water, but not nearly as much as in the Snake, or both groups of fish when they are migrating through the Lower Columbia. What Swieca said when you consider flow requests from GCL, there is some stuff that goes on in the Mid-Columbia in terms of you are improving water velocities a little relative to the background or what you would see regularly there. Your primary benefits are downstream just because of the characteristics of the dam and channel size relative to the amount of water flowing through it. He said that the major transit time issues are in the Snake and then again in the Lower Columbia. He said that he did not know how far the AA expectations for flow requests from GCL of how far we need to go down this, but it is well established and the FM could stack paper on Runyan's desk.

Runyan said just enough to hit on the questions. He said to think of him as asking basic questions and so the data that they have there just simplify it and shows him. He said that the main thing is he saw LWG fish right there, he just wanted to make sure that if there are smolt coming out of other tributaries upstream of the Snake that, say the water released from GCL is also benefiting the timing of those fish too and that whatever that is, if there is a chart, table, or data. He said that it was an obvious question. Runyan said that on April 3, 28,231 fish were counted, he asked if that was by detectors.

Ebel said that was the passage index for smolt, that is essentially the number of smolt collected or estimated in the tanks by the sample rate times the proportion of flow that is going through the powerhouse. It is an index of total smolt passage at the dam.

Runyan said even that calculation. He said that he would love to see that equation.

Stranz said that TMT has not gone over this kind of stuff in a number of years. She said that she appreciated that Runyan was asking the questions and slowing this down.

Ebel said that it takes effort to put that together other than throwing a lot of paper at Runyan that is difficult to read at best. He said that maybe they should discuss putting something together to reorient people to these numbers and maybe it would be good for a TMT business meeting. He said that he was not volunteering to do that entirely because he was booked but in the long term and moving forward in the next few months if that was something that Runyan was really interested in or people need a reminder of what they are looking at he thought the FM should probably make sure that everyone was understanding the numbers that the FMs are showing.

Swieca added that there is substantial information at the bottom of each of the reports as well that discusses some of the data that is used in them, the locations for selection, the timing that monitoring occurs. She said the FMs are very careful about how they discuss them because juveniles are an index, not a number of individuals, it is an index value. They have not gone over the details about this. She said that Runyan's first touch point for gaining information would be at the bottom of the reports and then maybe it is right for a TMT process meeting in the future. She said that she was not sure who would be the appropriate entity to present that information, but it could be a good discussion point.

Stranz asked to keep the dialogue going and then after Runyan had digested some of the information provided on the reports he could ask more questions and if it would be helpful TMT could dive deeper at a process meeting. She said that TMT goes over this about once every 5 to 10 years.

Runyan said that he thought for this year in particular, what is potentially being asked is helping out the downstream fish. He said that he thought that this conversation needs to continue as we talk about that operation. He said to be prepared to answer what that index is, how it is calculated. Do not give him 100 pages, just tell him what is in it. Then he thought TMT needs to look at this data because that is what this whole operation at GCL potentially is going to help. He said that he wanted to keep this as an open conversation as TMT does with any other operation. He said that he needs to understand what this data is because we are going to make decisions based on the data. He said that he did not mean to offend anyone or make more work but we need to use what we have and it is going to be dynamic and the forecast is going to change but we have to share information freely, openly, quickly and sorry if he asks dumb questions. He asked that the FM just help him walk through it.

Stranz said that they are not dumb questions by any means, this is complicated, and Runyan is not used to looking at this data every day like the FMs. She said that she thought that it was a good action item for somebody, maybe Swieca could take it on and send Runyan the DART link so that he can see what data is available for the Upper Columbia fish.

- Swieca will send Runyan the DART link so that he can see what data is available for the Upper Columbia fish.

Ebel cautioned that it was something that the FMs really need to go through with Runyan because there is looking at the data and then there is understanding the patterns in the context of the fish's life history and reactions to environmental cues. He cautioned that Runyan can go ahead but if he had questions there are nuances to every one of the species in the areas that can alter and sometimes significantly alter a fish-oriented management recommendation.

Stranz said that we have got time for all that this season.

Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation, said on the issue of Upper Columbia detections that DART does publish passage indices for both Rocky Beach and Rock Island. If anyone has trouble finding those, she would be happy to point them in the right direction. She said that new this year for PIT tags in the Upper Columbia, Douglas PUD has installed a PIT tag detector on the railroad bridge that is at the mouth of the Methow so it detects fish that are entering the Wells pool and there is a PIT tag barge at the mouth of the Wenatchee also detecting fish entering the Rock Island pool. She said that the railroad bridge detector is really new this year, it just went in last Fall. She said how that can be used to inform run timing is a little unclear but there are probably avenues that we can look at that maybe have not been considered yet.

Norris said that he was curious. He said that TMT has talked about the run timing for one species of fish and their potential benefit for shaping flow out of GCL earlier in the season but that would come as a detriment for fish migrating later in the season. He said that he was hoping that the SOR would address that. Would subyearlings that migrate later than that see a decrease in flow for the remainder of the season.

Ebel said that management is all about prioritization.

Norris said so a trade off then.

Ebel said that there are always trade-offs.

Runyan said that was part of the question that he asked too. He said that he wanted to make sure that we quantify, if there is a benefit from April 15 to May 15 there is potentially a negative to flows May 15 on. So, we really want to make sure we understand that and all stakeholders have a lot of various interests in this region so we need to keep track of all that.

Morrill said that he thought that it was clear to them, as FMs, that the data that they have, the CSS which goes back for thirty years, the information they have on water travel time, on fish travel time, on survival all point to the Mid-C benefiting from having the best conditions for the Spring migrants reaching BON before May 15. So, the concept has been the question of whether we can increase the hydrograph during that time period. Those that participate in the CSS review would have a better understanding of this. It is not something that one can dive into quickly and gain a full understanding on but the data is there, the FMs are all familiar with it, it is something that they discuss and pay a lot of attention to. He said that he did not think how the FMs share it with Runyan and those who are asking the questions is the FMs channel to do so effectively, in a timely fashion

and the FMs are happy to do that. The FMs' confidence in this information is documented in reports, the data in DART, and the data in FPC that supports the monitors, what is happening during real-time. And as Norris noted, if there is a detriment to later fish, the FMs are looking at the population needs as a whole and the best improvements that they see by improving flows in the Mid-C at this point in time not only benefits Mid-C population, but it also benefits Snake River population below MCN. And we are looking at a low flow season so any chance that we have to enhance flows out the Mid-C benefits both the populations.

Stranz said that this is a good opportunity to share some information, to revisit old information, to look at new, and to cross pollinate and share what FMs know well with the AAs who are interested. She said that she would add this as an item to the process meeting for next week and TMT can take a little bit of a deeper dive and look at some of the resources that are online and have some conversation and information sharing.

c) Power System – Tony Norris, BPA

- Nothing to report.

7. Agenda – *Wednesday, April 15, 2026*

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

- 1) DWR Update
- 2) SOR (Potential)
- 3) Water Outlook

Erick Van Dyke asked if TMT would be having a Friday meeting.

Stranz said that TMT was going to wait and see what the AAs thing after they have seen the SOR.

Van Dyke asked how the FMs would be informed on that.

Stranz said that it would be an email from the AAs. She asked the AAs what they thought.

Runyan said speaking for BOR when they get the SOR they could read over it and then respond. He asked that once they receive it to allow them a day to read it. They would let the FMs know as soon as they could.

Baus said that this conversation is unique because we are talking about something and AA do not know what they are talking about and that is difficult. He said what he would propose from a process standpoint and to save everybody some time. In an effort to minimize how many people are going to be communicating on Thursday and Friday about whether there would be a meeting or not Baus proposed that TMT stays on the current schedule and have the meeting on April 15. Once the AAs receive the SOR the Corps would not be able to commit to a day because Baus needs to be able to coordinate with a wide breadth of people.

Ebel agreed to meet on April 15 to discuss the SOR.

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	
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
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	
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 – Kasi Underhill, Jessika Solleder

BOR – Ryan Fosness

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator),
Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker,
Contractor, recording)

EKI – Eve James

Avista – Patrick Maher, Steve Lentini

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey