

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

May 6, 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 summaries from the April 15 and April 29 TMT meetings.

Official May Water Supply Forecasts

Chris Runyan, Reclamation, reported the official May water supply forecasts (WSF) for Hungry Horse Dam (HGH). April precipitation in the Flathead Basin was 117% of average, and snowpack at/below about 5,500 ft is mostly melted out; above 6,000 feet is slightly below to slightly above average.

May through July is 1,372 kaf, or 82% of average; April through August is 1,840 kaf, or 90% of average; and May through September is 1,480 kaf, or 83% of average. Regarding the higher April through August value, Chris noted that April runoff was above average (around 120%). May through September sets the end of September draft at HGH, which is 3,544.1 ft.

Doug Baus, Corps, reported the official May WSF for Corps of Engineers projects:

- **The Dalles (TDA):** NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 79 maf, or 88% of average.
- **Lower Granite (LWG):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 14 maf, or 68% of average.
- **Libby (LIB):** Corps May runoff forecast (April to August) is 7,053 kaf, or 116% of average.
- **Dworshak (DWR):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 1,912 kaf, or 77% average.

Dave Swank, USFWS/Vice-FPAC Chair, added that the LIB forecast puts the project in a Tier 4 year for the Kootenai River white sturgeon volume and bull trout minimum discharge. Greg Hoffman, Corps, is scheduled to present final plans at the May 20 TMT meeting.

In response to a query from Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, it was clarified that from a historical perspective, 68% of average water supply at LWG is in the bottom 10th percentile (on the RFC website) of the last 66-year record. Tony Norris, BPA, also clarified that WSF do not trigger dry year strategy at TDA.

FPAC Request for Treaty Flow Augmentation

Dave reported that no decisions have been made at FPAC regarding Treaty flow augmentation, they continue to monitor flows and water forecasts and a recommendation will likely come within the next couple months. The item will remain on TMT meeting agendas for the time being.

Non-Court Ordered Operations Review

Storage Reservoirs – Chris reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **HGH:** inflows increased over the past few days, averaging 9.4 kcfs yesterday. After a brief cool down yesterday, forecasts show highs in the low 70s °F which should melt higher elevation snow and increase streamflow through the weekend. Midnight elevation was 3,544.5 ft (15.5 ft from full), average outflows yesterday were 8.2 kcfs, and streamflow at Columbia Falls was 23.8 kcfs.

HGH plans to hold 8.2 kcfs out through the weekend and could potentially lower slightly depending how streamflow reacts to the warming trend.

- **Grand Coulee (GCL):** inflows yesterday were 137.6 kcfs, with outflows of 136.4 kcfs and a midnight elevation of 1,251.2 ft. GCL continues to operate within the 1,250-1,255 ft band through the end of drum gate maintenance on May 11. The project will refill to 1,286 ft by July 2 in anticipation of the July 4 weekend, and then will continue filling to 1,289.7 ft after that. Based on current WSF for TDA, GCL's summer draft is projected to be in the 12-ft range.

Alexis Mills, Corps, reported on Corps of Engineers projects:

- **LIB:** midnight elevation was 2,372.9 ft, with average inflows of 28 kcfs and outflows this morning of 10 kcfs (holding through tomorrow). LIB will ramp up to VARQ flows before initiating the sturgeon pulse which should occur later this month or early June.
- **Albeni Falls (ALF):** elevation at Hope yesterday was 2,055.2 ft, with average inflows of 30 kcfs and outflows today of 30 kcfs. ALF is managing refill to the normal summer operating band.
- **DWR:** midnight elevation was 1,572.3 kcfs, with inflows currently around 13 kcfs and outflows today of 6 kcfs, ramping down to around 4.5 kcfs to manage refill.

Fish – Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, reported yearling Chinook and steelhead passage spiked at LWG early last week, reflected in the LWG index values. Since then, passage has slowed to roughly 10,000 yearling Chinook and 14,000 steelhead/day over the past week. Chinook and steelhead numbers are increasing at McNary (MCN) as the pulse of individuals moves down through the system. Sub-yearling Chinook are increasing at LWG, averaging about 1,100/day over the past week.

For adults, Chinook YTD passage at Bonneville (BON) is about 53,000 individuals, or 136% of the 10-year average. Steelhead YTD passage is 2,388, or 102% of the 10-year average. A total of 7 shad have been observed at BON within the last week. At LWG, Chinook YTD passage is 346, or 52% of the 10-year average; steelhead YTD is about 1,000, or 31% of the 10-year average, half of which were unclipped.

Dave noted it is still too early in the season for adult lamprey. He added that while juvenile counts at BON have been running low relative to past years, it isn't unusual to see a late March, early April peak followed by a decline; this year does seem to be a bit lower than normal. Dave reported that Brandon Chockley, FPC, suspects this might be due to lower flows in the tributaries upstream of BON, something to monitor moving forward.

Charles Morrill, WA, noted that wild PIT-tag passage at MCN is indicative of relative passage timing of wild stocks both at MCN and LWG; wild fish are a minority of the fish migrating downstream during the spring. Passage for wild fish has been observed much earlier this year through both the mid-Columbia and Snake Rivers, an important component of why Salmon Managers have requested additional flows to benefit those fish. These data can be shared visually at the next TMT meeting.

Power System – Tony had nothing to report for the power system.

Set Agenda for Next TMT Meeting

The group requested the following agenda items for May 13, TMT Members may send additional items to Doug Baus or Emily Stranz. A draft agenda will be posted to the TMT website by Monday COB.

1. Potential treaty flow augmentation request
2. Other

TMT – May 6, 2026

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 May 13 at 9AM PDT.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, May 6, 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) April 15 Summary and Minutes
 - Approved
- b) April 29 Summary and Minutes
 - Approved

2. Official Water Supply Forecasts – Chris Runyan, Reclamation, and Doug Baus, Corps

a) Water Supply Forecasts

Reclamation Update

- Flathead Basin Update
 - April Precipitation: 117% of median
 - Snowpack:
 - At or below 5500 feet: Melted out
 - Above 6000 feet: Slightly below to slightly above average.
 - April Runoff: Above average (~120% of average)
- Hungry Horse (HGH)
 - May – July
 - 1371 kaf
 - 82% of average
 - April – August
 - 1840 kaf
 - 90% of average
 - May – September
 - 1480 kaf
 - 83% of average
 - May – September Draft: 3544.1 feet

Corps Update

- The Dalles (TDA)
 - April to August
 - 79 maf
 - 88% of average
- Lower Granite (LWG)
 - April to July
 - 14 maf
 - 68% of average
- Libby (LIB)
 - May Runoff Forecast
 - 7053 kaf
 - 116% of average
- Dworshak (Clearwater Fork) (DWR)
 - April to July
 - 1912 kaf
 - 77% of average

Dave Swank, USFWS, followed up on the LIB forecast. He said that TMT had mentioned last week that it ties into what is going on with what is going on with the pulse flow for Kootenai River Sturgeon. The forecast of a little over 7053 kaf puts us in a Tier 4 year for Sturgeon volume and the Bull Trout minimum discharge. Greg Hoffman is scheduled on May 20 to present to TMT on the final plan that they are working on currently.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, thanked Baus for the numbers. He asked where the 68% of average at LWG puts us in terms of historic years.

Baus said that it could be found on RFC's webpage through their link to the WSF and by searching by the rankings.

Hesse asked if any of the WSF levels trigger operational responses throughout the System.

Baus said that there were not any that he was tracking at this time. He asked if any were tracking otherwise to chime in.

Norris said LIB and HGH and summer augmentation drafts and the LIB Sturgeon pulse and LIB Bull Trout minimum flows.

Baus said that after he had commented, he recognized that any given water supply condition have an impact on any host of operations to some degree so he asked if Hesse could focus his question more.

Hesse said that it was open-ended and whether the forecast was below a dry-year trigger for any of this. TDA operations have dry year conditions that have cascading effects for operations elsewhere. He said that was not the specific reason for asking, but he just generally wanted to know if any of the forecasts were putting us above or below those thresholds.

Baus noted at 88% of average (79 MAF) the TDA water supply forecast (April to August) currently exceeded the dry water year volume (below 74 MAF) that describes the dry water year strategy that is discussed in greater detail in the Water Management Plan (WMP).

Norris clarified that the specific WMP criteria for dry water year operations is below 74.8 MAF.

Norris said we no longer have dry year tools that are triggered on TDA forecast, that has all been shifted since the 2020 EIS to local forecast for LIB and HGH for their end of September augmentation drafts.

Hesse said that TMT saw the data for the range of historic years, but we did not get to discuss it, but it looked like it was in the bottom ten.

46	2024	16377.92	82	68.657 %
47	2016	16344.65	82	70.149 %
48	2025	15809.28	79	71.642 %
49	2004	15530.73	78	73.134 %
50	1990	15515.41	78	74.627 %
51	1991	15324.71	77	76.119 %
52	1968	14878.38	75	77.612 %
53	2013	14220.85	71	79.104 %
54	2005	13722.81	69	80.597 %
55	2026	13653.01	68	82.090 %
56	1966	13401.72	67	83.582 %
57	2021	13063.59	65	85.075 %
58	1988	12573.00	63	86.567 %
59	2007	12470.53	63	88.060 %
60	1994	11651.06	58	89.552 %
61	1973	11642.62	58	91.045 %
62	2001	10780.25	54	92.537 %
63	2015	10583.53	53	94.030 %
64	1987	10438.90	52	95.522 %
65	1992	9219.81	46	97.015 %
66	1977	8401.51	42	98.507 %

3. FPAC Request for Treaty Flow Augmentation – Dave Swank, USFWS/Vice-FPAC Chair; Tony Norris, BPA

- Swank shared that FPAC discussed Treaty Flow Augmentation, but they did not come to a decision to make a request, but they are keeping an eye on flow and water forecasts. They will make a request in the next month or two but not now.

4. Non-Court Ordered Operations Review

a) Storage Reservoirs

Reclamation – Chris Runyan

- Hungry Horse Dam
 - Conditions:
 - Inflows have increased over the last few days.
 - There was a brief cool down yesterday.
 - The forecast is calling for highs near low-70s through the week that will get the higher elevation snow melting, increasing streamflow through the weekend.
 - Average Inflows: 9.4 kcfs
 - Average Outflows: 8.2 kcfs
 - Columbia Falls Streamflow: 23.8 kcfs
 - Midnight Elevation: 3544.5 feet
 - From Full: 15.5 feet
 - Operations:
 - Hold current outflow of 8.2 kcfs through the weekend.
 - Depending on how the streamflow reacts to the warming trend HGH may potentially have a small cut next week.
- Grand Coulee Dam
 - Inflows (05/05): 137.6 kcfs
 - Outflows (05/05): 136.4 kcfs
 - Midnight Elevation: 1251.2 feet
 - Operation:
 - Continuing to operate within the 1250 – 1255' band while drumgate maintenance continues.
 - Maintenance is still planned to end by Monday, May 11.
 - Longer term GCL will operate to provide flows and meet the flow objective.
 - Spring Refill: 1286 feet (July 2)
 - Anticipation of July 4 weekend
 - Refill after July 4: 1289.7 feet
 - Summer Draft: 12-foot range
 - Estimate based on the current forecast at TDA.

Corps – Alexis Mills

- Libby Dam (Lake Koocanusa)
 - Midnight Elevation: 2372.9 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: ~28 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 10 kcfs
 - Operations:
 - Outflows will be held at 10 kcfs through tomorrow.
 - Outflows will then be ramped to VarQ flows before the initiation of the Sturgeon Pulse (later this month or next) pending FPIP discussions.
- Albeni Falls
 - Midnight Elevation (Hope Gauge): 2055.2 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: ~30 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: ~30 kcfs
 - Operations:
 - ALF is managing refill to the normal summer operating band.
- Dworshak Dam
 - Midnight Elevation: 1572.3 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: ~13 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 6 kcfs
 - Operations:
 - Ramping down to 4.5 kcfs as DWR manages refill.

b) Fish

Salmon – Kelsey Swieca, NOAA

- Juveniles (over the past week)
 - Yearling Chinook and Steelhead passage spiked at Lower Granite (LWG) last week.
 - Subyearling Yearling Chinook numbers are increasing at McNary Dam (MCN) as the pulse of individuals move through the System and they are increasing at LWG.
 - Yearling Chinook
 - LWG: 10,000 /day
 - Steelhead
 - LWG: 14,000 /day
 - Subyearling Chinook
 - LWG: 1,100 /day

- Adult Salmon Counts
 - YTD Counts (Percent of Ten-Year to Date Average)
 - Spring Chinook
 - BON: ~53,000 YTD (136%)
 - LWG: 346 YTD (52%)
 - Steelhead
 - BON: ~2,388 YTD (102%)
 - LWG: ~1000 YTD (31%)
 - Roughly half were unclipped Steelhead.
 - Shad
 - BON: 346 YTD (52%)

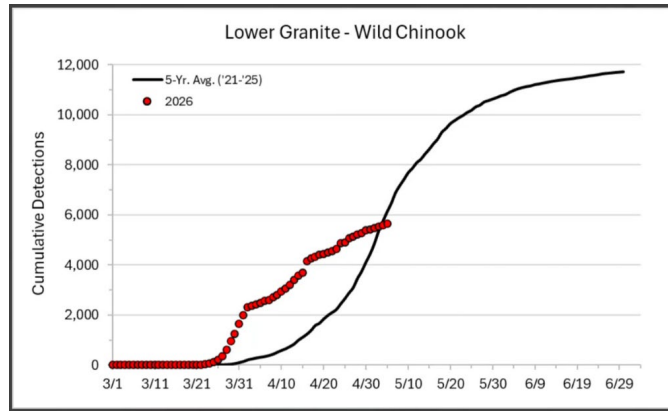
Lamprey – Dave Swank, USFWS

- Adult Lamprey
 - Nothing is happening relating to the adult lamprey as it is too early in the season.
- Juvenile Lamprey
 - Collection Counts at BON
 - Previous report there was a report that collection points at BON were running low relative to previous years. There were a lot of consecutive zeros.
 - Swank looked back and found that it was not unusual to see a late-March/early-April peak and then a decline. This year does seem lower than normal.
 - Brandon (FPC) speculated at FPAC that it was maybe due to the low flows in tributaries upstream of BON.

Charles Morrill, Washington, said that he was not sure that he could share what Brandon had shared, the wild PIT-tag passage at MCN which is not a population estimate, but it indicates relative passage timing of wild stocks at MCN and LWG. He was going to share it but it did not look like he could. He asked if Swieca could share it particularly for MCN because it shows wild fish being the minority of the fish that are migrating downstream during the Spring. It clearly shows that what we have seen so far this year is an earlier passage of wild fish through Mid-Columbia and the Snake. He said that he wanted to remind TMT that this was an important component that FMs had that they had as a reason to ask for additional flows to benefit those fish. He said that was based on the CSS from the timing information that would achieve the best benefit for reduced travel time, better survival, for those fish by being able to provide additional flows.

Swieca said that she did not think that FMs were able to share screen. She said that she thought that the Corps had set up the meeting so that the participants were not able to share their screen, so if FMs want to provide that information in the future they need to send it over to Lisa Wright in advance of the TMT meeting. She said that was something

that FMs should be covered at the next meeting. She said that she thought that Morrill summarized it sufficiently.

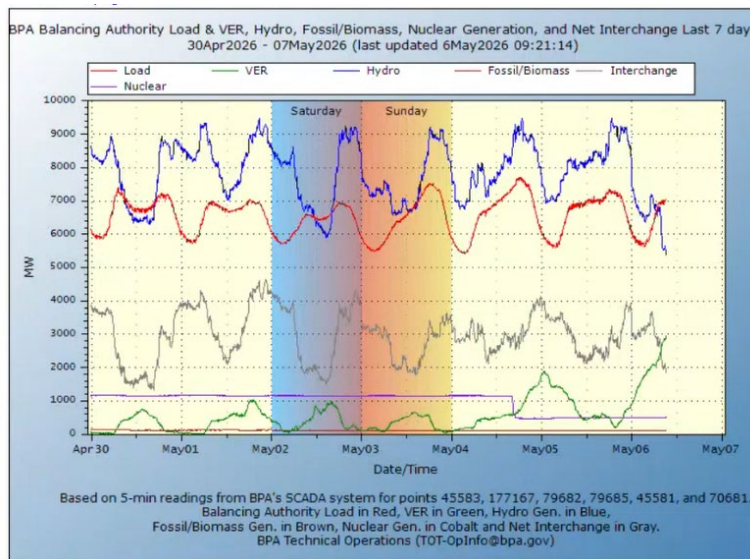


Jonathan Ebel, Idaho, provided the above image via chat.

Runyan asked Ebel for the link of where he got the above data so that all of TMT had it. He said that he has never been able to find it.

Ebel said that it was distributed from FPAC. He said that he would just email it to Runyan.

c) Power System – Tony Norris, BPA



- Nothing to report.

5. Agenda – *Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Donna Silverberg (Facilitator)

- a) Treaty Flow Augmentation Request (*placeholder*)

6. Future Agenda Topics

- a) Upper Snake Flow Augmentation – *Runyan, BOR*
- b) Kootenai River White Sturgeon Flow Pulse Release – *Greg Hoffman, Corps Seattle District (May 20)*

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	Kelsey Swieca, Trevor Conder
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 (BOR)	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Doug Baus (Chair), Aaron Marshall, Lisa Wright
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	
Spokane Tribe (STOI)	Brent Nichols
Nez Perce Tribe (NPT)	Jay Hesse
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Megan Biljan, Chris Peery, Dan Turner, Michelle Yuen, Jessica Solleder, Alexis Mills, Eric Chow, Steven Lee, Leah Hamilton, Micah McNerney, Kasi Underhill

BOR – Ryan Fosness

BPA – Tammy Mackey

Washington ECY – Thomas Starkey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

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

EKI – Eve James, Travis Togo

AVA – Mike Dillon, Patrick Maher, Steve Lentini

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

GCPUD – Joseph Akers, Eva Stites

PGE – Phil DeVol

FPC – Noah Campbell

PSE – John Chandler, Mitch

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

Unaffiliated – Mike Buchko, Eric Wood, Rayan El Helou