

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

July 29, 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](mailto:colby@dsconsult.co).*

### Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes

TMT Members approved the official meeting minutes and facilitator's summary from July 22.

### Dworshak Dam Operations

Oscar Espinoza, Corps, reported on operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR). Reservoir elevation this morning was 1,581.06 feet (dropping 0.9 feet/day), with current outflows of 8.7 kcfs.

Water temperatures at Anatone and Orofino are in the 70s°F, Lewiston is currently in the low 50s°F; the Lower Granite (LWG) tailwater is hanging in the 66-67°F range. Oscar noted that the LWG forebay temperature string is showing great stratification (which is helpful for temperature mixing, as spill, powerhouse, and other outlets draw from different depths in the forebay). Forecasted ambient air temperatures are rising within the basin, with some relief expected on Sunday and Monday, at around 80°F in Lewiston. Favorable weather and cloud cover have helped water temperature management.

Model results from this morning show temperatures in the LWG tailwater staying between 67°F to 68°F; Oscar believes temperatures will stay under 68°F. DWR plans for releases to be at 13,000 cfs on August 7 for double testing at LWG (August 10-14); Oscar reminded the group that DWR water takes 3-4 days to reach and affect LWG temperatures. About 12.8 kcfs of water will be moved on August 6.

The DWR Flow Augmentation Water Tracker ("DWR Visualizer") shows about 42% of the season complete, with 36% of water used. Looking ahead, August 5 should be 54% of the season with 46% of water used while maintaining current operations. Heading into August, reserves look to be in the top 10% of previous years, with about 12-13 days of 13,000 cfs. The visualizer currently shows ramping up to 13 kcfs August 7 through August 16, dropping to full powerhouse until August 25, back up to 13 kcfs August 27/28, and finally back down to full powerhouse before the end of the month; forebay elevation is projected to be 1,535 feet (or even higher) on September 1. Oscar emphasized that, as always, real time operations are subject to change depending on weather.

### Snake River Sockeye Update

Jonathan Ebel, ID, provided a Snake River sockeye update, noting low numbers of PIT-tags at Bonneville (BON) relative to the last couple years; one sockeye detected at Priest Rapids (PRD) made it up to Wells (WEL). To date there have been no fish trapped in the basin, sockeye are expected to show up any day at Redfish Lake or Sawtooth Hatchery.

More recent data show a cutoff date where conversion rates downriver decline; as of last week, fish detected at BON after June 28 showed declining conversion through the lower Columbia and up to LWG, reflecting a similar pattern from past years. Jonathan pointed to last week's written update for the joint ODFW/Nez Perce Tribe smolt release and subsequent adult collection at the BON Hatchery with transfer to the Stanley Basin.

### **2027 Water Management Plan (WMP)**

Doug Baus, Corps, reported on the 2027 [Draft WMP and review cycle](#). The schedule timeline remains the same as last year, with a draft posted by August 1, comments due by August 22, and a final posted on September 30. BPA and Reclamation had nothing further to add.

### **Set Agenda for Next TMT Meeting**

The group requested the following agenda items for August 5; 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. DWR Operations
2. Snake River Sockeye Update
3. Operations Review

### **Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members**

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

**The next TMT meeting will be on August 5 at 9AM PDT.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
Technical Management Team  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 29, 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 Meeting Summaries & Minutes – *Emily Stranz, DS Consulting***

a) July 22

- Approved

**2. Dworshak (DWR) Operations – *Oscar Espinoza, Corps***

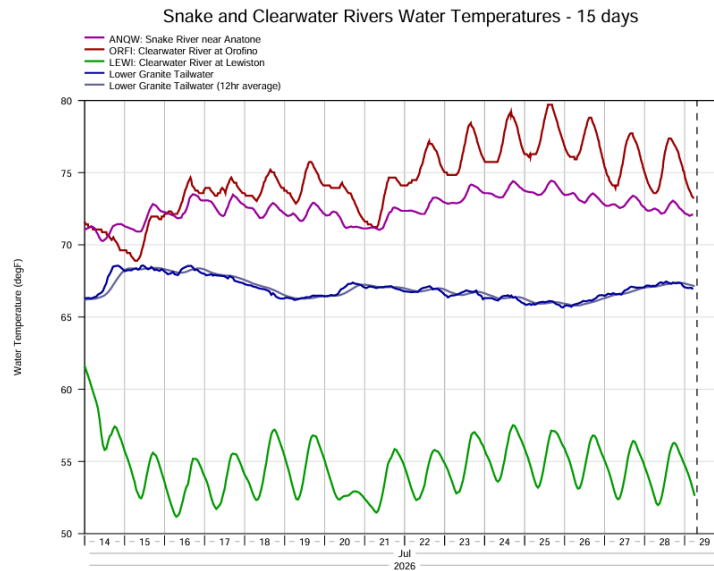
a) DWR Current Hourly Data

- Forebay Elevation: 1581.06 feet
- Current Outflows: 8.7 kcfs
  - Drafting: 0.9 feet/day

b) Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data

- Anatone (Snake River):
  - Temperature: ~72°F
- Orofino (Clearwater Mainstem):
  - Temperature: ~74°F
- Dworshak (DWR) Tailwater:
  - Temperature: ~43°F
- Lewiston
  - Temperature: Low-50s
- Lower Granite (LWG) Tailwater:
  - Temperature: 66 – 67°F

- Last 15 Days of Temperature



c) Lower Granite Forebay Temperature String

- Great stratification.

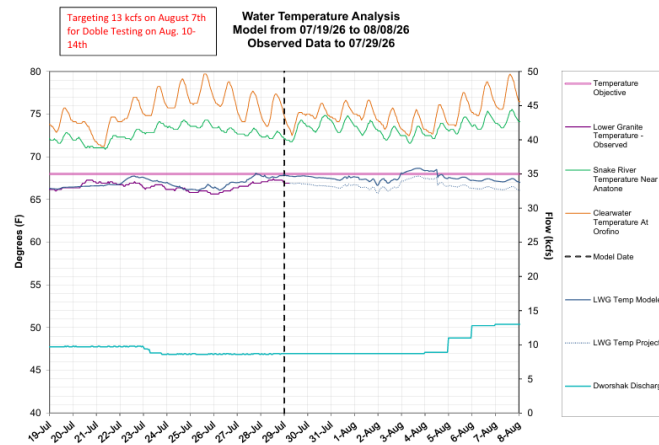
d) RFC 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast

- Temperature:
  - Temperature will build up in the Basin on Saturday.
  - Sunday and Monday expect some relief.

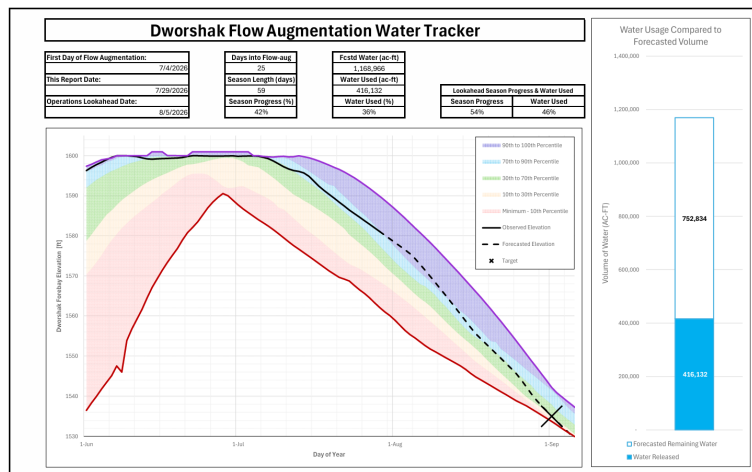
e) Weather Forecast for Lewiston, ID

- Temperatures
  - Sunday: ~80°F
  - Cloud cover will keep the temperature down.

f) Model Results – posted July 29 at 8:40am



- Espinoza said that the model output is goofy.
  - Model results have been relatively correct and should stay in the low-67 – 68°F range.
  - LWG Doble Testing Schedule
    - August 7: 13 kcfs
    - Three days for DWR water to get to LWG and affect LWG temperatures.
    - Water for August 10 – 14 needs to be sent by August 6 or 7.
    - Average Water Moved: 12.8 kcfs
- g) Dworshak Visualizer Flow Augmentation Water Tracker – posted July 29 at 8:40am



- Current:
  - Percent through season: 42%
  - Water Used: 46%

- Upcoming Operation Lookahead:
  - Percent through season: 54%
  - Water Used: ~46% (if operation is maintained)
- Heading into August we are in the top 10% of the previous year.
- Operation:
  - Twelve to thirteen of 13 kcfs with a ramp up on August 7.
  - Hold 13 kcfs through August 16.
  - Drop down to full powerhouse until August 25.
  - Ramp up to 13 kcfs for August 27 and 28,
  - Ramp back down to full powerhouse before the end of the month.
- September 1 Target Elevation: no lower than 1535 feet
  - Operations are subject to change dependent on the weather as operations are reassessed in real time.
  - DWR may come in a little higher than 1535' on September 1.

Charles Morrill, WA, thanked Espinoza for the update. He said that it was good news that we might come in above 1535' depending on how things play out between now and then.

Tom Iverson, Yakama, asked for an understanding of why we are targeting the thermocline. He said that he would like to understand the biological meaningfulness of it.

Espinoza said on the forebay graph, there is a bold black line going vertically between 15m and 20m. That is what the turbine's intake water will be. It is a mixture of both of those. Given that DWR is spilling as well and RSW flows, which take from the first 5-meters, and the regular spillways take from around the 10m mark. Having the stratification shown will provide better mixing and helps target the 68°F temperature because at the end of the day the tailwater temperature is a mixture of all of these releases with the temperatures that are shown.

**3. Snake River (SR) Sockeye Update – Jonathan Ebel, ID**

- Update
  - Ebel submitted an update report from a previous week. He said that he did not ask for this week's report as they are busy finishing up sampling and moving fish around in the week after the end of the LWG trapping and transport operation.
- PIT Tags
  - Relatively low PIT tags at BON relative to the last couple of years.
  - The one Sockeye detected at Priest Rapids went up to Wells.
  - Reached Day 2 that there have not been any fish trapped in the basin
  - Expecting Sockeye to show up any day at the trap at Redfish lake or Sawtooth Hatchery
- Conversion
  - Again, this year this update is around the cutoff date where survival, particularly conversion rates, downriver decline.
  - The conversion of fish that crossed BON after June 28 through the Lower Columbia and up to LWG declines.
  - Ebel said that he would review the SR Sockeye Run at the end of the year if TMT would like, but we are seeing a similar pattern to the past.
- Sockeye Trap and Haul
  - An update for the numbers provided by the joint ODFW and Nez Perce Tribe trap and transport operations for the release of smolts and collection of adults in BON hatchery and then transfer to the Stanley Basin.
  - Ebel did not have an update on the final total numbers and was not sure if they continued past this date.

Baus thanked Ebel for the update. He said that the Corps appreciated this as it is part of the reason TMT does the LWG/DWR operation. He said that he appreciated the update.

**4. 2027 Water Management Plan (WMP) – Doug Baus, Corps-NWD; Tony Norris, BPA; Chris Runyan, BOR**

a) Draft WMP Plan

- Baus provided the expectations moving forward for the WMP review cycle.
- Attached to the agenda the Action Agencies (AA) posted the link for the [Water Management Plan](#)
  - 2027 WMP was not posted and would be posted by August 1.
- Expect the same timeline as last year.
  - August 22: Comments from TMT
  - September 30 (End of WY): AAs will post the final WMP

## 5. Agenda Items

Next Meeting Scheduled: Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

### Next Week's Agenda Topics

- DWR Update
- Ops Review
- SR Sockeye Update

### Future Agenda Topics

- 2026 SR Sockeye Review (?)
- Adult Passage Assessment of LMN and JDA
- DART Presentation

- Today's Attendees:

| Agency                                         | TMT Representative(s)             |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| NOAA Fisheries (NMFS)                          | Kelsey Swieca, Trevor Conder      |
| Oregon                                         | Erick Van Dyke                    |
| Washington                                     |                                   |
| Kootenai Tribe                                 |                                   |
| Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation    | Dennis Moore                      |
| Umatilla Tribe (CTUIR) & CRITFC                | Pete McHugh                       |
| Yakama Nation                                  | Tom Iverson, Keely Murdoch        |
| Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)                    | Chris Runyan                      |
| Army Corps of Engineers (COE)                  | Doug Baus (Chair), Aaron Marshall |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)             | Dave Swank                        |
| Idaho                                          | Jonathan Ebel                     |
| Montana                                        | Brian Marotz                      |
| Spokane Tribe (STOI)                           |                                   |
| Nez Perce Tribe (NPT)                          |                                   |
| Warm Springs Tribe                             |                                   |
| Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) |                                   |
| Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)          | Tony Norris                       |

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Tom Conning, Tiffany Dixon, Oscar Espinoza, Chris Peery, Eric Chow, Leah Hamilton

BPA –

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

NPCC – Kate Self

PGE – Phil DeVol

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen