

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 19, 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 facilitator's summary from August 12, 2026.

Dworshak Dam Operations

Oscar Espinoza, Corps, reported on operations at Dworshak Dam (DWR). Midnight elevation was 1,554.73 feet, with current outflows of 10.2 kcfs. The project has been ramping down, drafting about 0.5-0.6 feet/day. Water from DWR is keeping the Lower Granite (LWG) tailwater in the mid-60s-mid-63s°F and the gauge at Lewiston at 50°F. Anatone and Orofino are in the low 70s°F and trending upward. Stratification in the Lower Granite (LWG) forebay is great for this time of year; due to excess water out of DWR the Corps expects this to remain consistent through the end of the month.

The RFC forecast shows trace amounts of rain in the Lewiston area / DWR Basin, with increasing ambient temperatures. 100°F weather is expected tomorrow in Lewiston, with 102-104°F expected on Friday. Temperatures should drop from the mid-80s°F to low-80s°F through the end of August into September.

Model results from this morning show decreasing outflows from the project to about 10 kcfs (currently 10.1-10.2 kcfs), which are expected to hold throughout the rest of the month. The LWG tailwater should rise to about 66°F, still below the 68°F criteria. The DWR Flow Augmentation Water Tracker ("DWR Visualizer") shows that DWR has used about 75% of the water through 78% of the season; the season will be 95% through by August 29 with 92% of water used. The end-of-season is projected to be about 1,537 feet, a little over 2 feet above the original 1,535 feet target.

Dworshak Board Update

Jonathan Ebel, ID, provided a brief update in place of Ed Schriever, DWR Board/Idaho. He reviewed the Dworshak Board 2025 Plan Implementation Summary and 2026 Operational Plan for the ramp-down and use of the 200 kaf of storage as stipulated in the term sheet of the Snake River Water Rights Agreement. The plan will implement one of three (A, B, or C) ramp-down alternatives based on DWR's end-of-August elevation and operating conditions. The year is being treated as a truncated ramping year because of DWR Dobel testing/maintenance in the third week of September. Because of this shortened window, the Board aims to avoid a steep late ramp-down by adjusting September releases earlier if needed.

Oscar clarified that if the pool comes in higher than expected, more water is used early in September, while if there are early September heat waves, the flow will stay up longer. If conditions are closer to the normal 1,535 feet ending point with no extreme heat, the plan is a steady ramp-down toward the lower September target. The goal across all options is to ramp down toward about 1,520 feet while managing the constraints around the September maintenance/testing period.

Lisa Wright, Corps, clarified that, based on the current projection of an end-of-August elevation around 1,537 feet, Alternative C is the expected operation. If the end-of-August elevation changes significantly,

the Corps will switch to Alternative A or B as appropriate and coordinate that change with the DWR Board and TMT.

Non-Court Ordered Operations Review

Storage Reservoirs – Chris Runyan, Reclamation, reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **Hungry Horse (HGH):** Inflows yesterday were 1.1 kcfs, outflows are at 3.5 kcfs, and midnight elevation was 3,552.6 feet (7.4 feet from full). The project continues to draft, about 1.5 feet since last week. Outflows will be reduced to 3 kcfs on Thursday as HGH continues to target the end-of-September draft requirement of 3,544.1 feet (15.9 feet from full). Streamflow at Columbia Falls was 5.3 kcfs yesterday; the minimum is 3.5 kcfs. HGH looks to remain above the minimum through September while releasing remaining flow augmentation.
- **Grand Coulee (GCL):** Inflows yesterday were 80.9 kcfs, outflows were 81.3 kcfs, and midnight elevation was 1,280.0 feet (10 feet from full). GCL will continue to draft through August, with an end-of-month requirement of 1,277 feet (13 feet from full, with 12 feet for the BiOp and 1 foot for the Lake Roosevelt incremental storage release program).

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

- **Libby (LIB):** Current elevation is 2,447.6 feet, with average inflows yesterday of 6 kcfs and outflows of 9 kcfs. The current bull trout minimum will remain at 9 kcfs through the end of August, then drop to 6 kcfs for the September bull trout minimum.
 - Alexis clarified that the noted “0.5 kcfs spill” on the project table is not actually spill, but water through a turbine as “speed no load” to avoid the rough zone. The Corps will coordinate internally how this might be categorized differently in the future.
- **Albeni Falls (ALF):** The project is holding the summer operating band of 2,062-2,062.5 feet through the 3rd week of September. Average inflows yesterday were 7 kcfs with outflows this morning at 13 kcfs.

Fish – For juveniles, Tom Lorz, CRITFC/CTUIR, reported that sub-yearlings are winding down but still moving through the system; higher numbers started to trail off for a bit, likely in correlation with Dobel testing. Tom noted that models have significantly more variability this time of year, as they are less effective with lower passage indices. For adults, shad are essentially done, steelhead are a little low at several hundred/day, fall Chinook appear to be coming in early (bigger run or early run), coho are starting to show at Bonneville (BON), and lamprey are closing out.

Charles Morrill, WA, reported that TAC did not update the fall Chinook run after they met this week; an update will be provided at the next TMT meeting.

Power System – Tony Norris, BPA, reported a couple more days of heat incoming followed by cooler weather; BPA had no issues to report.

Set Agenda for Next TMT Meeting

TMT Members may send agenda items to Doug Baus or Emily Stranz. A draft agenda will be posted to the TMT website by Monday COB. Starting in September, TMT meetings will switch to an every-other-week cadence.

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 26 at 9 AM PDT.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, August 19, 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) August 12 Summary

- Approved

b) August 12 Minutes

- Pending

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

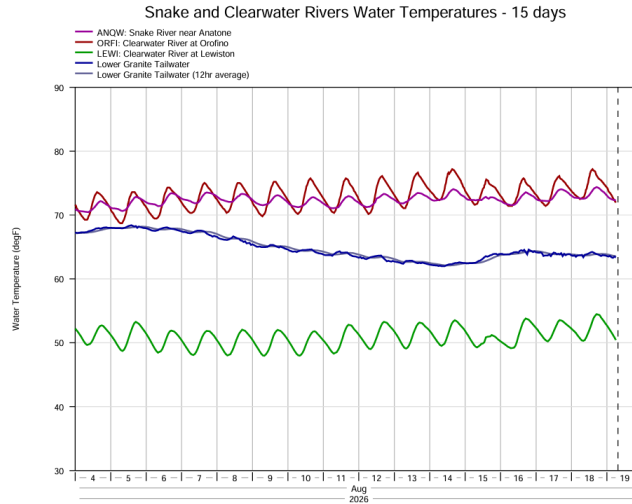
a) DWR Current Hourly Data

- Forebay Elevation: 1554.73 feet
- Current Outflows: 10.2 kcfs
 - Ramping down
 - Drafting: 0.5 feet/day

b) Snake and Clearwater Rivers Temperature Data

- Anatone (Snake River):
 - Temperature: 72.30°F
- Orofino (Clearwater Mainstem):
 - Temperature: 71.96°F
- Dworshak (DWR) Tailwater:
 - Temperature: 45.54°F
- Lewiston
 - Temperature: 50.45°F
- Lower Granite (LWG) Tailwater:
 - Temperature: 63.37°F

- Last 15 Days of Temperature



- Mild upward trend with Anatone (red) and Orofino (magenta).
- Projected to get warmer.

c) Lower Granite Forebay Temperature String

- Stratification is doing really well for this time of year due to the excess water being released from DWR.
- Can expect more of this and to stay somewhat consistent throughout the end of month.

d) RFC 10-Day Regional Weather Forecast

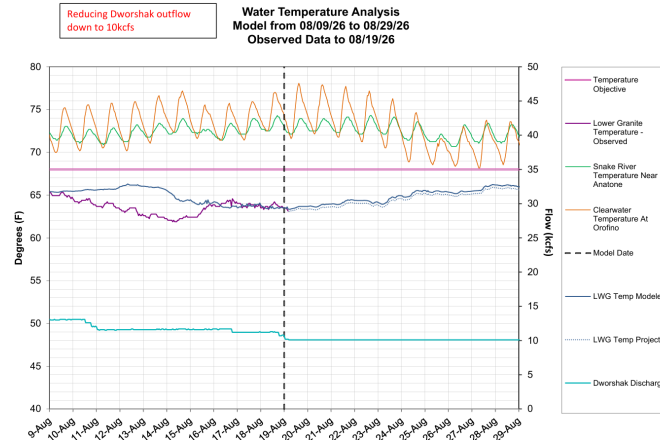
- Precipitation:
 - Trace amounts of rain forecasted in the Lewiston/DWR basin
- Temperatures:
 - Temperatures are expected to increase.

Date	Time	Pool (m)	0.5m	1.5m	3m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m	35m	Battery
08/18/2026	00:00	224.27	73.9	72.0	70.7	70.2	66.6	64.1	61.2	59.2	59.1	59.0	13.57
	01:00	224.25	74.0	72.3	70.7	70.3	66.6	64.3	61.1	59.3	59.0	58.9	13.60
	02:00	224.26	73.6	71.5	70.5	70.0	66.7	64.3	60.4	58.5	59.2	58.9	13.57
	03:00	224.27	74.0	72.7	70.5	70.0	66.7	64.7	60.6	59.3	59.1	59.0	13.57
	04:00	224.27	74.2	71.6	70.4	70.0	66.7	64.4	61.2	59.4	59.1	59.0	13.57
	05:00	224.28	73.7	71.6	70.6	70.0	67.0	64.4	60.9	59.5	59.1	59.0	13.57
	06:00	224.28	73.6	72.0	70.6	70.0	67.2	64.5	61.1	59.7	59.1	59.0	13.57
	07:00	224.29	73.5	71.9	70.7	69.9	67.3	64.6	60.7	59.6	59.3	59.0	13.62
	08:00	224.27	73.3	72.1	70.7	70.0	67.7	64.7	61.1	59.6	59.2	59.0	13.71
	09:00	224.28	73.1	71.7	70.5	70.0	67.7	64.7	61.1	59.6	59.2	59.0	13.85
	10:00	224.26	73.1	71.6	70.7	70.1	68.3	64.4	63.5	59.9	59.2	59.0	13.83
	11:00	224.27	73.6	71.7	70.3	69.9	68.5	64.4	63.9	59.6	59.2	59.0	13.74
	12:00	224.26	73.8	71.9	70.5	70.0	68.0	64.8	61.7	60.1	59.2	59.0	13.74
	13:00	224.29	73.2	72.4	71.0	70.2	67.7	64.4	61.2	59.9	59.3	59.0	13.74
08/19/2026	14:00	224.27	72.7	72.4	71.4	69.9	67.2	64.1	61.4	60.0	59.4	59.0	13.74
	15:00	224.29	72.3	72.2	72.2	69.9	66.7	64.3	61.3	59.7	59.5	59.0	13.74
	16:00	224.31	72.1	72.1	72.0	69.7	66.9	64.6	61.3	59.5	59.4	59.0	13.71
	17:00	224.29	72.3	72.1	71.6	70.0	67.2	64.3	61.1	59.6	59.3	59.0	13.71
	18:00	224.30	72.5	71.5	70.5	69.4	67.4	64.1	61.2	59.8	59.3	59.0	13.71
	19:00	224.31	72.9	71.1	70.1	69.5	66.5	63.9	61.4	60.0	59.4	59.0	13.69
	20:00	224.31	72.3	71.0	69.9	69.6	66.4	64.3	61.4	59.9	59.4	59.0	13.62
	21:00	224.31	71.7	71.1	70.1	69.6	66.6	64.1	61.6	59.7	59.5	59.0	13.60
	22:00	224.31	71.6	70.9	69.9	69.6	66.9	64.2	61.6	59.7	59.4	59.0	13.60
	23:00	224.31	71.4	70.6	69.9	69.6	66.8	63.9	60.7	59.7	59.4	59.0	13.60
	00:00	224.30	71.2	70.4	70.0	69.5	67.3	63.8	60.9	59.7	59.4	59.0	13.57
	01:00	224.29	70.9	70.7	70.0	69.5	67.4	63.8	60.4	59.8	59.5	59.0	13.57
	02:00	224.29	70.7	70.7	70.2	69.5	66.6	64.5	60.4	59.7	59.5	59.0	13.57
	03:00	224.28	70.7	70.7	69.8	69.5	66.5	65.0	60.3	59.6	59.5	59.1	13.57
	04:00	224.28	70.8	70.7	69.9	69.5	66.7	64.6	60.9	59.7	59.4	59.0	13.57
	05:00	224.27	70.7	70.6	69.7	69.3	66.7	64.1	61.1	59.7	59.4	59.0	13.57
	06:00	224.27	70.6	70.6	69.8	69.4	67.0	64.2	60.7	59.7	59.3	59.0	13.57
	07:00	224.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

e) Weather Channel Forecast for Lewiston, ID

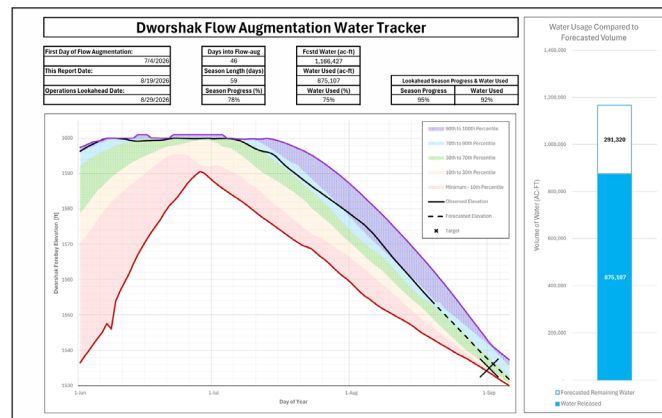
- Temperatures:
 - August 20: ~100°F
 - August 21: 102 - 104°F
 - Through the end of the month into next month temperatures are expected to be going down to the low – mid 80s.

f) Model Results – *posted August 19 at 8am*



- Operations:
 - DWR will decrease releases to ~10 kcfs (from ~10.2 kcfs) and they expect to hold through the end of August.
 - Temperatures are expected to creep up to ~66°F, which is still under the 68°F criteria.
 - Toward the end of August DWR will taper off and transition into the September operations per the Dworshak Board plan.

g) Dworshak Visualizer Flow Augmentation Water Tracker – *posted August 19 at 8am*



- Forebay Elevation:
 - Current:
 - Percent of Season: 78%
 - Water Used: 75%
 - August 29:
 - Percent of Season: 95%
 - Water Used: 90%
 - DWR should be ~2 feet over the original 1535' September target.
- September 1 Target Elevation: 1535 feet
- September 1 Expected Elevation: ~1537 feet

3. Dworshak Board Update – *Jonathan Ebel, ID*

- a) [Dworshak Board 2025 Plan Implementation Summary and 2026 Operational Plan](#)
 - Ebel did not attend the Dworshak Board Meeting for the ramp down and the use of 200 kaf of storage. He shared that what was provided in writing is what was requested by the Board as stipulated in the 'Mediator's Term Sheet' of the 'Snake River Water Rights Agreement'. He shared that he did not have any information on the discussions that occurred at the Dworshak Board.
 - Ebel said that there are three alternatives provided after the discussion. It is a little different this year as there are different requests for ramp downs for different possible end of August DWR elevations.
 - Dworshak Board agreed to implement one of the three ramp downs dependent on conditions and the DWR end of August elevation.
 - This is a truncated year due to Doble testing at DWR.
 - Three Alternatives:
 - *Orange* is a situation where the end of August elevation at DWR is above 1536 feet to 1538 feet.
 - Hold DWR higher at the beginning of September.
 - With the goal being to avoid the very steep ramp down in the approach to the final ramp toward Doble testing in the third week of September.
 - If the pool comes in higher the Dworshak Board decided to put more of that water on the front end or the beginning of September.
 - *Blue* is in the case of an early September heatwave.
 - Flow stays up frontloaded at the beginning of September with a gradual ramp down to 1520'.

- *Green* is in a situation where DWR is at 1535' and there are no extreme heatwaves are expected.
 - A steady ramp down of flow at DWR down until the Doble testing period.
- Ebel said that this is different from the past when the Dworshak Board just decided on the ramp, barring any unforeseen events. This year to avoid some of the potential steep ramps that could occur in a truncated year with Doble testing, the board decided on an elevation and condition-based alternative.

Espinoza said that he unfortunately was not at the Dworshak Board, but he wanted to provide some clarity to the graphic as they had assembled the graphic for the Dworshak Board. He said for alternatives green and blue (alternatives A and B); they are alternatives where DWR hit 1535' by September 1 and the alternative in orange, that is if DWR is higher than 1535' up to 1538'.

Ebel thanked Espinoza as he had forgotten the exact numbers.

Erick Van Dyke, OR, said that he was just curious how TMT would know which one we are using. He asked when the Corps was going to inform TMT of that or how that would work.

Lisa Wright, Corps, said based on the projected end of August elevation of 1537' at DWR the Alternative C (orange) would be the operation.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla, said that he was assuming that wherever DWR ends up would be the operation that the Corps was going to do. If something happens that DWR gets more water or less water, they will hence then go to the correct alternative.

Wright said Lorz was correct, if there was some reason that the end of August elevation changes, or is considerably lower than what the Corps was projecting currently, then they would switch to a different alternative.

Ebel said that the Corps would talk to the DWR Board.

Wright said that was correct.

Stranz summarized. She said that the plan moving forward is for Alternative C, if flows changes or if elevation changes significantly from what is projected, Alternative A or B might be implemented. There would be coordination with the Dworshak Board, and they would also provide updates at TMT.

4. Non-Court Ordered Operations Review

a) Storage Reservoirs

Reclamation – Chris Runyan

- Hungry Horse Dam
 - Inflows (08/18): 1.1 kcfs
 - Outflows (08/18): 3.5 kcfs
 - Midnight Elevation: 3552.6 feet

- From Full: 7.4 feet
 - Drafted: 1.5 feet (last week)
- Operations:
 - Outflows will be reduced to 3 kcfs on Thursday (August 20) as Hungry Horse continues to target the End of September draft requirement.
 - End of September Draft: 3544.1 feet
 - From Full: 15.9 feet
- Columbia Falls:
 - Stream Flow: 5.3 kcfs
 - 2026 Minimum Flow: 3.5 kcfs
 - Expect to remain above the minimum flow through the end of September as they release the remaining flow augmentation.
- Grand Coulee Dam
 - Inflows (08/18): 80.9 kcfs
 - Outflows (08/18): 81.3 kcfs
 - Midnight Elevation: 1280.0 feet
 - From Full: 10.0 feet
 - Operations:
 - Continue to draft through August.
 - End of August Draft: 1277 feet
 - From Full: 13 feet
 - From BiOP: 12 feet
 - Includes 1 foot for the Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Release Program.

Corps – Alexis Mills

- Libby Dam (Lake Koocanusa)
 - Current Elevation: 2447.6 feet
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: ~6 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 9 kcfs
 - Operations:
 - Aug. Bull Trout Minimum: 9 kcfs
 - Bull Trout Minimum will remain steady at 9 kcfs through the end of August and will drop down to 6 kcfs.
 - Sept. Bull Trout Minimum: 6 kcfs
 - End of September Draft Target: 2449 feet

Brian Marotz, MT, said that it showed a half kcfs spill. He asked what that was for.

Mills said that was due to the rough zone at LIB. She said that LIB has two units generating and one running at speed no load to achieve 9 kcfs total outflow, so although it is reported as 500 cfs spill, it is actually flow through a turbine.

Greg Hoffman, Corps, said that Mills was correct, that it is speed no load. He said that it does produce a little bit of TDG, but it is due to the rough zone at this particular flow, at 9 kcfs, running 2 units avoiding the rough zone there.

Mills thanked Marotz for pointing that out, it is a little confusing with that labeled as spill there even though it is speed no load.

Marotz said okay, he understood about the rough zone.

Erick Van Dyke, OR, said that this is being reported on the website as spill, but it is actually going through a turbine. He asked if that was correct.

Mills said yes.

Van Dyke said that TMT should maybe cover that at a different time, why it is reported as spill and not put into miscellaneous or some other flow. He said that he would be interested to know that at a later time.

Mills said that the Corps could have some internal discussions and see if there was a different way to report that.

- Albeni Falls
 - Avg. 1-Day Inflows: 3 kcfs
 - Current Outflow: 13 kcfs
 - Operations:
 - Lake Pend Oreille is within the Summer operating band of 2062 – 2062.5 feet.
 - Band will be held through the third week of September.

b) Fish

Fish – Tom Lorz, CRITFC

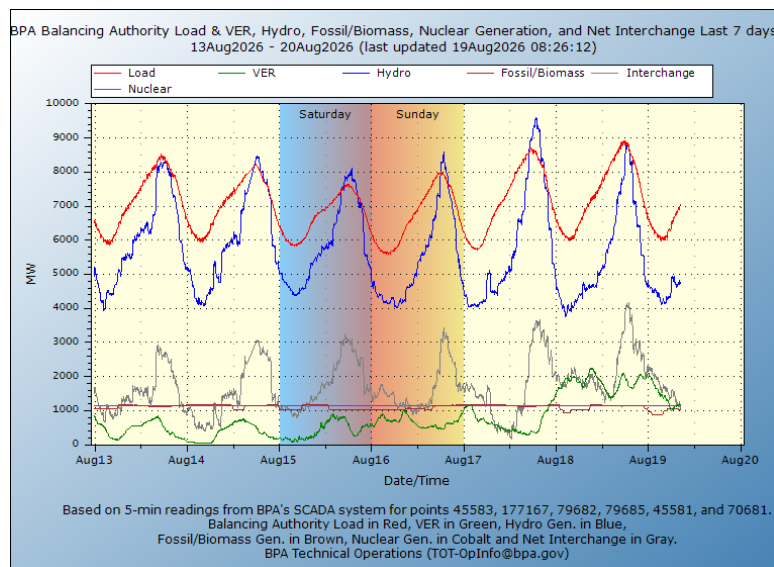
- Juveniles (Index count)
 - Subyearlings
 - In the last bits of the subyearlings.
 - We had some higher numbers, but they appear to have started to tail off a little bit. Potentially in correlation to the Doble testing, Lorz recommended that it be something that TMT looks into.
 - At this time of year, models have a lot more variability in what the numbers are, there could be more fish, could be fewer, when there are low numbers like this the models are not quite as effective.
 - The indexes are showing some subyearlings through the system.

- Adult Fish Counts
 - Shad
 - Shad are pretty much done.
 - Steelhead
 - Disappointingly low, hope that the numbers will come up.
 - Bonneville: Several 100 per day
 - Fall Chinook
 - Coming in a little earlier, there is a spike around week earlier than typical.
 - Hope this means a bigger run, or it could mean an earlier run.
 - Coho
 - Are starting to show up at Bonneville.
- Lamprey Counts
 - Adults
 - Weaning out and moving South.

TAC Report – Charles Morrill, WA

- Fall Chinook
 - TAC met this week and they did not update the Fall Chinook run a little early.
 - There will be an update at next week's TMT.

c) Power System – Tony Norris, BPA



- There are a couple more days of heat ahead of us and then we are expecting things to cool off.

- No issues to report.

5. Agenda Items

Next Meeting Scheduled: **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Meetings will change to alternating weeks in September.

Next Week's Agenda Topics

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)	
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	
Umatilla Tribe (CTUIR) & CRITFC	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	Aaron Marshall, Lisa Wright
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Spokane Tribe (STOI)	Brent Nichols
Nez Perce Tribe (NPT)	
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)	
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Oscar Espinoza, Megan Biljan, Tiffany Dixon, Christopher Peery, Tom Conning, Gregory Hoffman, Brian Majeran, Leah Hamilton, Eric Chow, Alexis Mills, Daniel Turner, Catherine Dudgeon

BPA – Emily Leake, Tammy Mackey

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

AVA – Mike Dillon, Steve Lentini, Patrick Maher

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O'Bryant

FPC – Erin Cooper, Noah Campbell

NPCC – Kate Self

Energy EPS – Joshua Rasmussen

EKI – Eve James

CHPM – Jay Fintz

PGE – Phil DeVol

Unaffiliated – Mike Buchko, Chris Stelzer