



# FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

From: FPC Staff

Date: February 14, 2017

Subject: Action Notes from February 14, 2017, FPAC meeting

On February 14, 2017, FPAC met via conference call for its weekly meeting. The following people participated in the meeting:

Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA)	Erick Van Dyke (ODFW)
Tom Lorz (FPAC Co-Chair CRITFC)	Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC)
Brandon Chockley (FPC)	Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe)
Michele DeHart (FPC)	Dave Statler (Nez Perce Tribe)
Charlie Morrill (WDFW)	Sheri Sears (Colville Tribe)
Dave Benner (FPC)	Jennifer Graham (Warm Springs Tribe)
Dave Swank (USFWS)	

## AGENDA ITEMS

### ***Approval of Outstanding Notes from Prior Meetings***

- FPAC approved notes from January 17, 2017 meeting with no changes.
- FPAC approved notes from February 7, 2017 meeting with revision. Notes will be revised and posted as final.
  - Revision: 90-day NOAA forecast calls for below average temperatures.

### **Water Supply and Reservoir Status**

- Dave Benner (FPC) provided a summary of the current reservoir operations and water supply forecasts, snowpack estimates, and ESP runoff volumes. See the attached document.

### **Weather Update and Climate Forecast**

- Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC) provided precipitation report and 6-day QPF graphics. See attached.
- Upper Columbia getting caught up on Snow Water Equivalent, currently ~-3" from normal. Last week was ~-9" from normal.
- NOAA – La Niña is over, now ENSO Neutral. This means higher variability likely.

### **Dworshak Water Supply, Reservoir Status, and Operation**

- FPAC Agenda provided links to 4-10 day and 45-120 day forecasts for Dworshak
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) reiterated that the COE will not violate April 15 Flood Control elevation (~1520') but might be willing to intersect refill curve.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) clarified that, at last week's TMT meeting, the COE intended to present analyses of a high water year, medium water year, and low water year instead of two high water years and a low water year. Revised analyses were posted to February 8 TMT agenda ([http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2017/0208\\_Revised\\_Long\\_Term\\_Dworshak\\_Scenarios.pdf](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2017/0208_Revised_Long_Term_Dworshak_Scenarios.pdf)).
  - Dave Benner (FPC) pointed out that there may be an error in the second graph of the revised analyses (2009). In March, it appears that outflows at DWR are ~3 Kcfs while inflows range from ~3-11 Kcfs (~7-7.5 Kcfs on average). Despite inflows being greater than outflows, graph still shows DWR drafting during this period instead of refilling.
  - FPAC will inquire with the COE as to why this is.
- FPC provided two updated scenarios for DWR in Water Supply memo (see attached).
  - Both Scenarios updated with STP from February 13, 2017.
  - Scenario 1 assumes 2.541 MAF runoff volume forecast and 2009 as analog year. Models outflows of 8.3 Kcfs through end of this week, then dropping down to ~4 Kcfs through early March, and increasing up to ~9.2 Kcfs (110% TDG cap) through the end of May. April 15 and April 30 Flood Control (FC) elevations are met but under end-of-February and end-of-March FC elevations.
  - Scenario 2 assumes 2.942 MAF runoff volume forecast and 2014 as analog year. Models outflows of 8.3 Kcfs through end of this week, dropping to ~4.0 Kcfs for 2-3 days, and increasing up to ~9.2 Kcfs (110% TDG cap) through end of May. April 15 and April 30 Flood Control (FC) elevations are met but under end-of-February and end-of-March FC elevations.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) reminded FPAC that fall Chinook in mainstem Clearwater will emerge in mid- to late March. Would be ideal to avoid (or minimize as much as

possible) 110% TDG from end of March through July when these fish are most vulnerable.

- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) still concerned for spring migrants. If water supply goes dry as March and April approach, may have to go to minimum outflows for refill, thus impacting flows for spring out-migrants.
- Tom Lorz highlighted three operational options for this upcoming week:
  - Decrease Outflows - reduce outflows (1-2 units with no spill; 1.6 Kcfs minimum). Will result in some degree of refill.
  - Maintain Current Operation – keep outflows at ~8.3 Kcfs (below 110% TDG). Depending on realized inflows, may result in draft, refill, or no net change in elevation.
  - Target a Specific Elevation – manage outflows at DWOR over the next week to maintain some specified elevation.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) specified that the COE wants a recommendation for a single operation (i.e., one of the three options above).
- FPAC recommendation is to maintain 8.3 Kcfs outflows for the next week.
- To inform FPAC's recommendation and to address concerns expressed by Jay Hesse, FPC will model an alternative to Scenario 1 where 8.3 Kcfs is maintained through February 24<sup>th</sup> and two-week period of 4.5 Kcfs in late February-early March will be moved to some period in late March and/or April. Constraint of meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> FC will be met in this scenario. This new scenario will be provided to FPAC for posting to the TMT website for tomorrow's meeting.

### ***Process Regarding Reservoir Operations and Information***

- Agenda item was in response to a memo that FPC sent to FPAC on February 10, 2017 (see attached, 15-17.pdf) regarding Dworshak Operations and discussions at February 8 TMT meeting.
- Memo outlined two topics for FPAC consideration:
  - Request that the COE provides analyses intended for TMT discussion to FPAC by COB Monday.
  - Discuss whether informal discussions between FPAC members and COE might affect operational decisions prior to TMT discussion and decision.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) reiterated that TMT is real-time and doesn't want to prevent circulation of analyses, even if they come out just before or during a meeting. People should question information as it is being presented.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) clarified that, at TMT pre-meeting FPAC co-chair presents what FPAC discussions were but makes it clear that not sure what is going to happen, particularly when not all FPAC members are present during FPAC discussion. These are discussions of the operations that are likely to be considered during TMT meeting. All operational decisions are supposed to be made at TMT.

***Other***

- FPC sent memo to FPAC prior to meeting (see attached, 17-17.pdf) regarding proposal to weld blades of Lower Granite Unit 2. FPAC should review memo and consider for their discussions on this proposal.

***Coordination for Other Scheduled Meetings***

- Next FPAC face-to-face meeting is Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> **at 1:00 PM.**
- TMT Tomorrow (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Bonneville Dam site visit (requested by NOAA, CRITFC and USFWS and organized by USACE) is scheduled for Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

