

**Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project**  
**FERC No. 2016**  
**Cowlitz Fisheries Technical Committee**  
**Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery**  
**Draft Meeting Summary**  
 April 30, 2019 from 1:00 – 4:00

**Attendees:**

Travis Nelson	TPU
Tom Wadsworth	WDFW
Paul Sparks	WA Council of TU / TU / American Rivers
Carol Serdar	WA Dept. of Ecology
Michelle Day	NMFS
Sam Gibbons	Tech Rep for WDFW
Brian Gale	Tech Rep for WDFW
Bryce Glaser	Tech Rep for WDFW
John Serl	Tech Rep for WDFW
Peggy Miller	Tech Rep for WDFW
Matt Bleich	Tech Rep for TPU
Eric Shoblom	Tech Rep for TPU
Tim Hoffnagle	Tech Rep for TPU
Phil Sandstrom	Tech Rep for TPU
Chris Foster, by phone	Tech Rep for TPU
Melora Shelton, by phone	Tech Rep for TPU
Ann Weckback, by phone	Lewis County / Tech Rep for TPU
Laura Wolfe	LCPUD / Tech Rep for TPU
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting / Facilitator

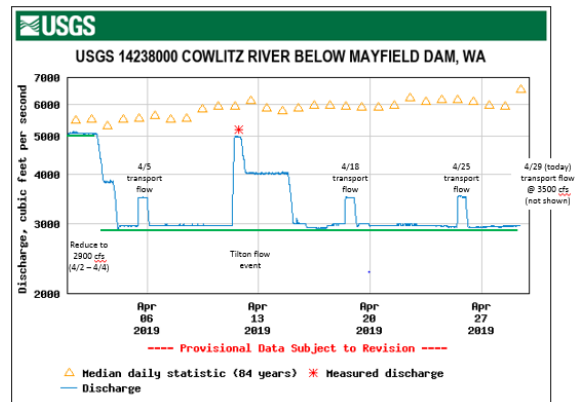
**2019 FTC Meeting Dates:** June 4 (Public Meeting), July 2 (FHMP Placeholder), Aug. 6, Sept. 5 (Thurs.), Oct.1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3 from 9:30-3:00 at Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery unless otherwise specified.

**Announcements**

- **Hydro Operations:** While March average daily inflows were approximately half the historical daily average, April average daily inflows of 9,435 cfs were well above the historical average of 7,706 cfs. The elevation at Riffe Lake is currently 711'. Snow pack is 86% of normal. At 2,900 cfs the probability of refill to 748' is 87%. At 3,500 cfs, that probability is 64%. Link to the USGS real-time Cowlitz River hydrograph:

[https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14238000&PARAMeter\\_cd=00060,00065](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=14238000&PARAMeter_cd=00060,00065)

- **Action Item:** Melora to ask Leah how snow pack is incorporated into historical data. Also, what is the difference in acre/ft. between elevations of 740' and 748'? Is 748' sufficient to meet MIF in the fall?(This can be discussed during the next coordination call.)



- CRR Fund: Melora reported that the LCFRB has received one grant application so far for a habitat project and a visit to the site (Yellowjacket Creek) will occur immediately following the next CRR meeting (May 2). The project is being proposed by the Cowlitz Tribe. Materials are posted on LCFRB and SRFB websites. They launched the grant program for hatchery associated projects on April 19. One letter (from Northwest Fisheries Enhancement) has been received so far. The revised set of due dates for proposals is available on the public CRR Fund website. The intent was to give equal time for HAM and HAP project proposals. The new dates are listed on Mytpu.org/crr.
  - **Action Item:** Melora to send out the dates to the FTC. FTC needs to be the deciding body. Melora also to check the broken link on site.
- FHMP: Matt noted receiving feedback that TPU may have missed some key themes in the Chinook Chapters. They are seeking a similar level of feedback on the Steelhead Chapter to ensure major themes are characterized effectively. Comments on the Chinook Chapter the week of May 6 would be appreciated. TPU plans to incorporate the content-driven comments into that chapter. Matt has also learned of concerns about the structure of the chapters. The intent is to use a structure that supports the best way to tell the story of each species. For now, TPU will continue to focus on content and then will invite others to participate in improving the structure. They plan to send the Coho Chapter out to the public within the context of the existing chapter. When the draft goes out for review, Bryce indicated a desire to see a notation on the draft that its contents have not been fully agreed to. The Coho Chapter will be out to FTC early next week. It will still contain the same structure as the Chinook Chapters, but that doesn't mean suggestions for changing the structure weren't heard. Matt will be sending out the Steelhead Chapter. Lyn will send notes from the steelhead workshop to all. Matt to do same with Coho. The first draft of key themes for Steelhead, Cutthroat and Chum will be out shortly and Matt looks forward to feedback on these at the June 4 meeting,
- Downstream Adaptive Management TWG: Matt reported the operations and implementation of the 2019 study is going mostly as planned (since issuance of the Decision Document). They are tagging the first groups of Steelhead and are seeing early returns of those fish coming back (with similar timing as last year so far). They also marked early group of Coho (two weeks earlier than historically). He also noted that TPU has recently received the 2018 report from their consultant. The TWG is reviewing the document. He plans to send the document (with embedded comments from the TWG) to the FTC for review this month.
- Summer-Run Steelhead Recycling: Tom said WDFW is considering starting the recycling earlier this year to give more opportunity. In the past, they have started this on June 15 as it was the peak of the fishery and coincided with the USGS study on straying. *WDFW Expressed an interest in beginning to recycle summer run steelhead (up to 3,300) ASAP. Need DD?*
- This year, WDFW plans to recycle up to 3,300 Summer-Run Steelhead for more harvest opportunity without any adverse environmental impact. The stray rate is very low. They floy-tagged these last year and will do the same this year. WDFW plans to discuss this with the CRAG. Ideally, they could start recycling soon. As this is a notification, there was general agreement that there was no need for a Decision Document on this. WDFW already discussed this with NOAA. They will capture the range and period for recycling in the HGMP and the FHMP.

- Gravel Augmentation: Travis reported this action will not occur this year, as TPU and Lewis County have different understandings regarding the need for a shoreline permit. TPU proposes having a zero-rise analysis done to see if the action and quantity would create any flood risk for adjacent and downstream property owners. Carol asked if TPU could hire a consultant to start the permanent gravel augmentation program now. She noted the interim plan is due in December and a long-term plan would be much preferred over a piecemeal approach.
  - **Action Item:** Travis will follow up with Florian and Keith on this issue, including drafting a Decision Document for discussion at the June meeting.
- M&E Subgroup: Bryce and Phil explained this group continues work through the FHMP M&E Chapter, prioritizing issues for the next 1-3 years. They are also discussing the Tilton release site operational plan. Their next meeting is set for May 29 and their next presentation to the FTC will be on adult Coho.
- Additional Tilton Release Site: Eric explained that the TPU engineering has completed a preliminary design and will be reviewing this with the DOT on May 1. They will then initiate a legal review for a land use agreement or permit. They will likely be one-to-two weeks behind the schedule that originally scheduled completion for the end of July. Carol requested that she be able to review the design well ahead of time.
  - **Action Item:** Eric will share the schedule for the expected completion of the site design for DOT review. Send this to Carol after buy-in from WA DOT and then will also share with the FTC.
- Scanewa Reservoir Turbidity Event of 4/17: Chris explained that he was onsite monitoring the debris removal project and he was certain this event was not in any way related to the debris removal project. TPU is not sure what the event was that caused the turbidity. TPU surveyors noticed the water was more turbid in Silver Creek than in the Cowlitz. There was some speculation that the turbidity may have been related to a landslide at Silver Creek upstream of Lake Scanewa.
- Tire Removal at Mayfield: Travis explained they plan to remove 600-800 tires from Mayfield this September during maintenance activities, including the boat ramp. Travis is working with the USACE, Ecology and WDFW to coordinate this effort. TPU will provide the equipment for the tire removal and Ecology has a grant fund to take care of disposal. WDFW will coordinate with TPU on the HPA and will store the tires temporarily. Carol observed TPU will need an In-Water Work Protection Plan for this work. She will coordinate with Matt on this. The tires were placed in the reservoir initially with the idea of providing tiger muskie habitat.
- Tom explained that he prepared a draft Decision Document re: releasing Spring Chinook. The program has been very successful over the last three years and has “spawned” Spring Chinook overages. This year, an overage of 76K fish need to be released in the next couple of weeks. Last year, there was also an overage and the FTC approved a Decision Document to release the fish in the lower river, clipping all of them and tagged some of them. Tom edited that Decision Document for this year, noting there are no state funds for the tagging. Sam explained there is a need to decide something on this by the end of June at the latest. From a fish health standpoint, it would be best to release them in early June. Discussions will continue offline. When and where for the release is an FTC question. TPU will get back to WDFW soon on whether they can provide the \$9K required for the tags.

## **Mayfield Unit 41 Exciter Replacement 2019-6**

### **Presenter: Travis Nelson**

Travis explained the purpose of this Decision Document with TPU requesting a 3-day variance period during the anticipated testing week of July 22 - July 26 when ramping of up to 4" per hour will be allowed. The FTC would receive at least a 24-hour notice prior to the start of the variance period. The proposed decision seeks temporary variance from the ramping rates requirement for the Cowlitz River to allow for testing of a new exciter for generating unit #41 at the Mayfield Powerhouse. This is required maintenance on an existing turbine. This work is scheduled to occur in July of this year.

After discussion, this Decision Document was edited slightly and approved by consensus of FTC members present.

### **Action Items:**

- Travis: Revise the Decision Document as agreed to and Send out for approval.
  - Phil: Send stranding data from last event to FTC (when went from 5K to 4K and then down to 2,900 cfs).
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## **Plan for June 4 FTC Public Meeting**

### **Presenter: Travis Nelson**

Travis announced that he reserved the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis for our next meeting. The plan is to follow the same protocols for public comment as were used at the last meeting. Agenda topics are listed below.

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## **Meeting Summary Approval**

The April 2 FTC Public Meeting summary was approved with edits and will be posted to the FTC public website.

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## **Possible Topics for June 4 FTC Public Meeting**

- Hydro Operations, incl. changes to minimum flows
- Tire Removal at Mayfield
- Gravel Augmentation Decision Document
- Boat ramps and recreational levels
- Trout Hatchery Remodel Update
- Cowlitz Restoration & Recovery Fund
- Downstream Adaptive Management TWG
- Additional Tilton Release Site
- M&E Subgroup Report
  - Adult Coho Presentation?
- FHMP Process Update
  - Major themes for Cutthroat and Chum
- Agree whether to meet in July and Identify Agenda Topics for next FTC Meeting

## **Parking Lot**

- Steelhead Recycling Program