

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

COORDINATION TITLE - 16WVP02 Willamette mainstem flow target at Salem

DATE - 20 April 2016

PROJECT - Willamette Valley Projects

RESPONSE DATE - 04 May 2016

Description of the problem

The minimum flow target for the mainstem Willamette River at Salem was decreased below criteria (17,800 cfs) detailed in the Biological Opinion for the remainder of April to 16,400 cfs as proposed and recommended by the Corps, NMFS, and ODFW to be conservative for meeting other fish needs later in the year (e.g. spawning flows in the South Santiam).

Type of change/outage required

The minimum flow target for the mainstem Willamette River at Salem was decreased for the remainder of April to 16,400 cfs. At the time of this writing flow at Salem in the Willamette River was 16,900 cfs.

Impact on facility operation

This will increase storage at Willamette Valley Projects.

Dates of impacts/repairs

The temporary minimum flow target at Salem in the Willamette for April was effective April 14 through April 30.

Length of time for changes/impacts/repairs

Approximately 2 weeks

Expected impacts on fish

There will be minimal impacts to fish and possibly fish benefits later in the year depending on hydrologic conditions.

Comments from agencies

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Domingue - NOAA Federal

[mailto:richard.domingue@noaa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 10:18 AM

To: Walker, Christopher NWP; Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal; Stephanie

Burchfield - NOAA Federal; Kimberly Hatfield - NOAA Affiliate

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Willamette mainstem flow target (UNCLASSIFIED)

NMFS concurs that in order to maintain/enhance the amount of stored water at several reservoirs in the Willamette basin, a reduction in the April Salem flow target from 17,800 cfs to 16,400 is appropriate. Current water temperatures are well within the tolerance of spring

Chinook adults and outmigrating juveniles of both spring Chinook and steelhead. Given the adequate conditions in the river currently, we believe that adding water to storage now to provide greater surety of maintaining adequate flows throughout the fish migration/spawning season is prudent.

-----Original Message-----

From: Elise X Kelley [mailto:elise.x.kelley@state.or.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 12:25 PM
To: Walker, Christopher NWP; Domingue, Rich; bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us
Cc: Ann Mullan; Teed, Tina J NWP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Willamette mainstem flow target (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Chris,

ODFW concurs that target flows for the Willamette River at Salem should be reduced to 16,400 as soon as possible to conserve water for later this year when the water will be needed to meet fish flow and temperature control targets.

Best,
Elise

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen, Chris [mailto:chris_allen@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 8:04 AM
To: Walker, Christopher NWP
Cc: Ann Gray; Michael Hudson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: MFRs: 16WVP02 Willamette mainstem flow target (Salem), 16FRN01 flow decrease (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Chris,

The FWS does not object to the temporary flow modifications for the mainstem Willamette River or in the Long Tom River below Fern Ridge Dam. Thanks for the coordination. Our support for these modifications extends, as you've proposed, through the month of April.

Chris

Final results

The temporary minimum flow target at Salem in the Willamette for April was effective April 14 through April 30.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.
Thank you,

Chris Walker
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section
503.808.4316
Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil