

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

COORDINATION TITLE - 16WVP03 Willamette Mainstem Flow Target at Salem

DATE - 19 May 2016

PROJECT - Willamette Valley Projects

RESPONSE DATE - 02 June 2016

Description of the problem

The purpose of this effort is to balance flow and temperature needs in the mainstem Willamette for migrating salmonids (juveniles and adults) while considering water conservation for future needs for fish in the mainstem Willamette River and its tributaries.

The minimum flow target for the mainstem Willamette River at Salem was decreased below criteria (15,000 cfs weekly average) detailed in the Biological Opinion beginning May 16 for the remainder of the month to a 14,000 cfs weekly average as proposed and recommended jointly by the Corps, ODFW, and NMFS.

Type of change/outage required

The minimum flow target for the mainstem Willamette River at Salem was decreased for the remainder of May to a 14,000 cfs weekly average.

Impact on facility operation

This will conserve storage at Willamette Valley Projects.

Dates of impacts/repairs

The temporary minimum flow target (14,000 cfs weekly average) at Salem in the Willamette for May was effective May 16 through May 31.

Length of time for changes/impacts/repairs

Approximately 2 weeks

Expected impacts on fish

The purpose of this effort is to balance flow and temperature needs in the mainstem Willamette for migrating salmonids (juveniles and adults) while considering water conservation for future fish needs.

Comments from agencies

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 1:19 PM

To: Walker, Christopher NWP <Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>;

Teed, Tina J NWP <Tina.J.Teed@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Stephanie Burchfield - NOAA Federal

<stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov>; Domingue, Rich

<Richard.domingue@noaa.gov>; Elise Kelly <elise.x.kelley@state.or.us>;
Bernadette Graham-Hudson <bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us>;
Friesen, Tom <Tom.Friesen@oregonstate.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Flow Target discussion, W-FPOM follow up

Hello Christopher and Tina,
As we discussed earlier today, NMFS recommends continuing with the
flows at Salem meeting the 14,000 cfs 7 day average instead of the
15,000 cfs BiOp target through the rest of May, 2016. This is
acceptable for fish up- and downstream migration given the lower water
temperatures, currently remaining less than or equal to 60F at the
Newberg USGS gage, overnight.

Many thanks for your helpful discussion of how the Willamette Project
reservoirs will manage this level of flow while the snowmelt peak has
passed, and NRCS has indicated the storage remaining is only 1.2 Maf.
We understand the Lookout Point elevations will continue to drop to
supply the bulk of this flow.

All the Best, Anne Mullan

Anne Mullan
Ph.D

Endangered Species Biologist
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West Coast Region, OR/WA Coastal Office
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503.231.6267

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 6:54 PM
To: Teed, Tina J NWP <Tina.J.Teed@usace.army.mil>; Walker, Christopher
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Cc: Elise X Kelley <Elise.X.Kelley@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>; Stephanie
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<Alan.D.Donner@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Flow Target discussion, W-FPOM follow up

Hhello Tina and Chris

Thanks for the model runs you provided last Friday, and for the latest screenshots at this morning's meeting. As we discussed today, NMFS agrees to the proposal to reduce the flow target at Salem from Monday, May 16th, to the end of the month, with these conditions:

1. 7-Day Moving average minimum flow will be 14,000 cfs instead of 15,000 cfs. Instantaneous minimum will remain 12,000 cfs.
2. If no rain arrives this weekend, and the temperatures continue to rise such that Newberg USGS gage shows night-time temps rise and remain higher than 16C, we will reconsider at the scheduled meeting May 19th.
3. Given concerns we have from past correlations for outmigrating steelhead, we would like the Corps to participate in analyzing effects on the adult returns in 2 years.

Many thanks,
Anne

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, Ph.D
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Final results

The temporary minimum flow target at Salem in the Willamette for May of 14,000 cfs (weekly average) was effective May 16 through May 31.

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

Chris Walker
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section
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