

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

COORDINATION TITLE - 16WVP04 Flow Targets for Willamette Mainstem at Salem, North Santiam, and South Fork McKenzie

DATE - 03 June 2016

PROJECT - Willamette Valley Projects

RESPONSE DATE - 17 June 2016

Description of the problem

To balance flow and temperature needs in the mainstem Willamette and its tributaries for migrating salmonids (juveniles and adults), flow targets are being adjusted adaptively as conditions change and as the latest forecasts become available.

Type of change/outage required

After discussions among the Action Agencies, the Services, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others flow targets were adjusted and are listed below:

Willamette mainstem flow targets at Salem:

June 1-7: 12,000 cfs

June 8-15: gradually reduce flows to reach 8,700 cfs on June 15

South Fork McKenzie flow target (Cougar Dam): 300 cfs during all of June, the BiOp target for June is 400 cfs.

North Santiam flow target (Big Cliff Dam): decreased to incubation flows (1,200 cfs) for steelhead a week early on 25 May.

Impact on facility operation

This will conserve storage at Willamette Valley Projects.

Dates of impacts/repairs

Various, see section 'Type of change/outage required' above

Length of time for changes/impacts/repairs

Various, see section 'Type of change/outage required' above

Expected impacts on fish

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

Comments from agencies

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 5:16 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)
<stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov>; Kim Hatfield <Kim.Hatfield@noaa.gov>;
Domingue, Rich <Richard.domingue@noaa.gov>; Tom Friesen
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<Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil>; Jeff Ziller
<jeffrey.s.ziller@state.or.us>; Elise X Kelley
<elise.x.kelley@state.or.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: North Santiam, Big Cliff outflows - Willamette
flow target (Salem)

Hello Christopher, Tina, et al

This is to follow up on your request below, and during the Flow Team meeting today, for modifications from BiOp targets in the mainstem and below Big Cliff and Cougar dams. NMFS agrees to the following:

- 1) Continue to release 300 cfs at Cougar to allow an elevation at which the temperature control tower will be operable.
- 2) As North Santiam steelhead spawning is close to or already completed, decrease spawning flows from Big Cliff, stepping down to incubation flows of 1200 cfs beginning today. The average over 6 days for the drop in flows will be no more than 50 cfs / day, and ramping rates in BiOp Table 9.2-4 for night hours will not be exceeded.
- 3) Targets in the mainstem at Salem will be geared to achieve 12,000 cfs 7 day average for the week beginning June 1. Flows will begin dropping on Friday May 27 and will be close to or at 12,000 cfs on June 1.
- 4) The mainstem drop will be reviewed with the latest spring Chinook counts at Willamette Falls on June 1 when we have our next ODFW / NMFS/ Corps call -- at which time we will also consider river temperatures and latest river forecast levels to see if any other changes will be proposed for a June 6 scheduling timeline to go into effect June 8th, or if the reduction to 12,000 will remain until June 15th.

Many thanks for the enlightening discussion today.
best, Anne

Anne Mullan
Ph.D

Endangered Species Biologist
National Marine Fisheries Service
West Coast Region, OR/WA Coastal Office
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 1100
Portland OR 97232

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 6:49 PM
To: Teed, Tina J NWP <Tina.J.Teed@usace.army.mil>; Walker, Christopher
NWP <Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Stephanie Burchfield - NOAA Federal
<stephanie.burchfield@noaa.gov>; Elise Kelly

<elise.x.kelley@state.or.us>; Domingue, Rich
<Richard.domingue@noaa.gov>; Bernadette Graham-Hudson
<bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June flow targets

Hello Christopher and Tina

This is to follow up on your request today, for modifications from mainstem targets during June.

Rather than stepping down now from the already lower target of 12,000 cfs, NMFS recommend to gradually lower flows beginning on June 8 to arrive at the 8,700 target for June 15. Following another phone meeting on June 15th, we would potentially recommend the next step from 8,700 to 6,000 for July 1 target follow a similar decline in flows below target beginning on June 23rd. For now until the decline on June 8, we expect the 7 day average to hold at 12,000 cfs and similarly between June 15 and June 23rd, the 7-day average would hold at the 8,700 target level.

Thanks, Anne

Anne Mullan
Ph.D

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Final results

Flow changes are being implemented as coordinated.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Chris Walker
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