

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**COORDINATION TITLE** - 16FWVP07 MFR Spawning Flows in the North and South Santiam Rivers

**DATE** - 07 September 2016

**PROJECT** - Foster Dam, Big Cliff Dam

**RESPONSE DATE** - 21 September 2016

**Description of the problem**

To balance flow and temperature needs in the Willamette basin for salmon and steelhead, flow targets are being adjusted adaptively as conditions change and as the latest forecasts become available.

The changes below were the result of discussions at the Flow Management and Water Quality Team meeting on August 24, with consensus from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville Power Administration, and others.

**Type of change/outage required**

Flows were increased to 1,500 cfs, for spawning spring Chinook salmon below Big Cliff Dam on the North Santiam River on September 6. Flows for spawning spring Chinook salmon are typically scheduled to increase on September 1 as listed in the Biological Opinion (BiOp).

Flows were increased to 1,200 cfs for spawning spring Chinook salmon below Foster Dam on the South Santiam River and were implemented on September 6. This is below minimum BiOp flow criteria (1,500 cfs) for spawning spring Chinook salmon. Further, spawning flows are typically scheduled to increase on September 1 as listed in the BiOp.

**Impact on facility operation**

Forecasts indicate that power pool storage may need to be utilized to maintain spawning and incubation flows for spring Chinook salmon in the South Santiam River (see BPA comments below).

**Dates of impacts/repairs**

North Santiam (below Big Cliff): A spawning flow of 1,500 cfs will be maintained from September 6 until the end of September.

South Santiam (below Foster): A spawning flow of 1,200 cfs will be maintained from September 6 until the end of September.

## **Length of time for changes/impacts/repairs**

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

## **Expected impacts on fish**

There should be minimal impact to spawning spring Chinook in the North and South Santiam Rivers.

## **Comments from agencies**

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]  
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 1:01 PM  
To: Walker, Christopher NWP <Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>;  
Scullion, Mary K NWP <Mary.K.Scullion@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: jcsweet@bpa.gov; Elise Kelly <elise.x.kelley@state.or.us>; Friesen,  
Tom <Tom.Friesen@oregonstate.edu>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Santiam Flows

Hello Christopher

Based on the Corps presentations August 24, 2016, and the Willamette flows spreadsheet tool provided August 23, 2016, regarding lowered Willamette reservoir levels under different scenarios, NMFS recommends the following:

\* For the Santiam basin, continue to hold to RPA Table 9.2-2 August flow levels through September 5, Labor Day.

\* On September 6, ramp to spawning target flows of 1500 cfs in the North Santiam, and to the reduced spawning flow levels of 1200 cfs in the South Santiam.

We would like to see the South Santiam maintain this minimum level through September, and prior to September 30, review and discuss how much spawning has occurred and any revised projections for reservoirs approaching minimum conservation pool elevations. We understand that if the Corps chooses to use Green Peter storage to preserve Foster Reservoir, there will be benefits to the boating community and some risk of being below minimum conservation pool in Green Peter in October, based on projections with 2015 rainfall levels.

Thanks for your consideration, Anne

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Anne Mullan  
Ph.D

Endangered Species Biologist  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
West Coast Region, OR/WA Coastal Office  
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503.231.6267

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

From: Sweet, Jason C (BPA) - PGB-5 [mailto:jcsweet@bpa.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 5:30 PM  
To: Walker, Christopher NWP <Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>  
Cc: Spear, Daniel J (BPA) - PGB-5 <djspear@bpa.gov>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: power pools, South Santiam

Hi Chris. I spoke with our short term planning group and they are comfortable with NOAA's flow proposal and with the proposed swap of Green Peter and Foster. This is based on our understanding that either Green Peter or Foster would likely dip into the power pool if current precipitation forecasts materialize and stream flows do not increase naturally. So, given our understanding that this is not a decision of whether or not to utilize the power pools in the South Santiam, but rather which power pool will be affected, again we support NOAA's flow proposal. Please let us know if conditions change or if any of the assumptions that I've laid out are incorrect from your perspective. Thanks again for working with us on this issue.

Jason Sweet  
Manager (Acting) | Fish Operations Policy and Planning  
Generation Asset Management  
Bonneville Power Administration  
bpa.gov <Blockedhttp://www.bpa.gov/> | P 503-230-3349 | C 503-318-5749

**Final results**

Flow changes were implemented as coordinated.

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](mailto:Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil)