

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

COORDINATION TITLE - 16BLU02 RO Outage low flows

COORDINATION DATE - 21 March 2016

PROJECT - Blue River dam

RESPONSE DATE - 14 April 2016

Description of the problem - As part of a dam safety inspection both regulating outlets will be inspected which requires installation of a bulkhead and releasing water thru a separate 12" water line. Expected outflow during the inspection is ~15 cfs and will last at a maximum of 5 hours. This same type of inspection was performed in 2011 and low numbers of fish were observed stranded below the project.

Type of outage - Both regulating outlets (ROs)

Impact on facility operation - ROs will be offline

Dates of impacts/repairs - 17 May through 18 May

Expected impacts on fish - There will be negative impacts to fish and other aquatic life, although, the level of impact is unknown. Habitat below Blue River Dam is available to both spring Chinook salmon and bull trout and are ESA listed species. Some spring Chinook salmon could spawn in Blue River below the dam, however, warm temperatures in 2015 probably limited spawning success and fry emergence. When similar work was done in July of 2011, seven fish were salvaged including two salmonids and were returned to the river unharmed.

Monitoring - Fish biologists will be stationed below the dam to monitor stranding.

Comments from agencies

Excerpt from 160323 WFPOM draft minutes: "16BLU02 RO Outage low flows. Periodic inspections of regulating outlet gates occur on 5 year intervals. Date of impact 17 & 18 May. 12 inch diversion pipe will pass 15 cfs downstream Blue River during this inspection. Has occurred 2011, 2006, and 2001. In 2011 biologist were present for fish salvage. 7 fish salvaged, 5 sculpin, 2 salmonids that were returned alive to the river. Biologists will be onsite during operation for fish salvage again. Hatfield asked about ramp rates and mentioned that we should indicate in the report that we will salvage fish as well as look for them. We will ramp down over series of days more conservative than suggested in the BiOp. Mackey indicated that comments will be accepted until 14 April."

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

From: Kim Hatfield [mailto:kim.hatfield@noaa.gov]

Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 9:10 AM

To: Walker, Christopher NWP

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Blue River flow decrease comments, 16BLU02 MOC

Chris,

I think the meeting notes covered our input on both the BLU MOC/MFRs.

The main point of the RO inspection comments was to clarify that the Corps would conduct not only have biologists on-site but that there will be observations and salvage of stranded fish, as needed. The way it is worded does not indicate that is what will occur and the Corps should get credit for conducting the activities.

The main point of the MFR re:ramp rate deviations is that these types of notifications [not limited to this specific notification] should include why the incident occurred (human error, equipment failure, environmental conditions) and where appropriate identify how it will be avoided or minimized in the future.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions.

Kim Hatfield
Biologist
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
503-231-2315
Contractor - Ocean Associates, Inc.

On Thu, Apr 28, 2016 at 2:04 PM, Walker, Christopher NWP
<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil
<mailto:Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil> > wrote:

Hi Kim,
There was limited info in the notes regarding NMFS comments for decreasing flows in the Blue River for a dam safety inspection. I will copy and paste from the notes that talks about fish salvage.

If you have more comments, please send them soon. Thank you and chat soon.
Chris

Chris Walker
US Army Corps of Engineers
Operations Division
Fish Biologist
w: 503-808-4316
c: 503-887-6452

Final results - The action will proceed as coordinated. Fish biologists will be stationed below the dam to look for and salvage any fish that are stranded. Update: Four salmonids were salvaged and returned to the river unharmed.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Chris Walker

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section
Willamette Fish Operations Coordination Biologist
503.808.4316
Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil

Greg Taylor
Fisheries Biologist
NWP Operations Division
Willamette / Rogue Projects
541.937.2131 x.146
Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil