

6.4.10 Kootenai River Habitat Restoration Program (KRHRP)

From August through October in 2014-2017, the AAs will be operating Libby Dam in coordination with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho in order to provide conditions for construction of a suite of KRHRP projects. The restoration strategies for the KRHRP projects include: construction of large wood bank structures along the toe of the banks; regrading of the bank slope and roughness treatments to trap sediment and promote floodplain development; excavation of a deep pools; construction of spur structures to redirect flow toward the center of the channel which will reduce bank erosion, maintain deep scour pools, and promote hydraulic complexity; creation of alcoves that will provide low velocity areas and promote floodplain development; creation of a native riparian buffer; riparian plantings and buffer fencing; and placement of spawning substrate in existing spawning areas. Releasing flows between 6 to 8 kcfs during September depending on the end of August elevation (minimum flows are 6 kcfs and 4 kcfs respectively in September and October) will facilitate the construction work. Flows in September will depend on hydrologic conditions, current forecast, as well as what habitat work is currently planned by the Kootenai Tribe and also the Corps downstream of Libby Dam. In order to accommodate this operation, the AAs will coordinate with TMT on the actual operation to reach the BiOp 30 September elevation target of either 2439 or 2449 ft. In the event of high rainfall events in the summer, the TMT will discuss shifting the target from 30 September to 31 August to increase the probability of reaching the elevation target and support the KRHRP.