



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706-1234

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CPN-1000
1.1.01

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Dear Technical Management Team (TMT) Members (See list below):

Over the past few weeks, the State of Montana, Senator Tester, Senator Daines, Representative Zinke along with the County Commissioners from both Lake County and Flathead County have expressed concerns regarding the falling Flathead Lake water elevation and have urged the Bureau of Reclamation to increase releases from Hungry Horse to help increase water levels in Flathead Lake.

Reclamation has provided responses to incoming correspondence and inquiries that a formal System Operational Request (SOR) should be submitted through and approved by the TMT prior to Reclamation adjusting flows out of Hungry Horse. Reclamation has been supportive and responsive to inquiries, providing guidance as well as technical information when requested.

On July 6, 2023, Regional Reclamation staff met with staff from the State of Montana to discuss the technical information and analysis the State had requested, including guidance on submitting an SOR through the TMT. Following that meeting, on July 7, 2023, Reclamation provided the requested data and modeling information to staff from the Montana Governor's Office and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. This information included historical Hungry Horse elevations in similar hydrologic years, the impact water released from Hungry Horse could have on elevations at Flathead Lake, and the potential impact to Hungry Horse elevations from releasing the water to support Flathead Lake elevations.

Reclamation operates Hungry Horse within a complex set of rules and regulations, and in coordination with a wide range of States, Tribes, Federal agencies, and other interested parties. When considering requests to change Hungry Horse operational releases, Reclamation must seek input from the TMT.

Given that a formal SOR has not yet been submitted by the State of Montana and recognizing the TMT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, I am respectfully requesting an agenda item be added to the TMT agenda for the group to discuss the Flathead elevation concerns raised by Montana and others, and possible operational adjustments within the system. Reclamation remains committed to working with the State of Montana and the TMT on a potential path forward. An open discussion in the TMT forum is important to initiating the conversation to assist in defining that path forward.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Carrington
Regional Director

Technical Management Team Members - see next page.

INTERIOR REGION 9 • COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

* PARTIAL

Technical Management Team Members:

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM (TMT)			
NOAA:	<i>Trevor Conder / Kelsey Swieca</i>	USFWS:	<i>David Swank / Steve Haeseker</i>
OR:	<i>Erick Van Dyke</i>	ID:	<i>Jonathan Ebel</i>
WA:	<i>Charles Morrill</i>	MT:	<i>Brian Marotz / Matt Boyer</i>
Kootenai:	<i>Billy Barquin / Shawn Young</i>	Spokane:	<i>Brent Nichols / Andy Miller</i>
Colville:	<i>Kirk Truscott / Bret Nine</i>	Nez Perce:	<i>Jay Hesse</i>
Umatilla:	<i>Tom Lorz (CRITFC)</i>	Warm Springs:	<i>Jen Graham / Bobby Brunoe</i>
BOR:	<i>Joel Fenolio / Chris Runyan</i>	BPA:	<i>Tony Norris / Scott Bettin / Ben Hausmann</i>
COE:	<i>Doug Baus / Julie Ammann / Lisa Wright</i>		