

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TITLE - 18CGR03 MFR minimum flow for restoration

DATE - 19 June 2018

PROJECT - Cougar Dam

RESPONSE DATE - 03 July 2018

Description of the problem

Flows below Cougar Dam in the South Fork McKenzie River decreased below minimum BiOp criteria (400 cfs) on June 19, 2018, to approximately 300 cfs to accommodate restoration efforts by the U.S. Forest Service.

Type of change required

Flows below Cougar Dam will be held near 300 cfs from June 19-August 15, 2018

Expected impacts on fish

The minimum flow criteria of 400 cfs is to provide adequate flows for rearing and migration of spring Chinook salmon. The stage change when flows were decreased from 400 cfs to 300 cfs equated to a decrease of approximately 0.2 feet, thus impacts will be minimal.

Comments from agencies

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

From: Taylor, Gregory A CIV USARMY CENWP (US)
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 2:11 PM
To: Scullion, Mary K CIV USARMY CENWP (US)
<Mary.K.Scullion@usace.army.mil>; Hoque, Yamen M CIV USARMY CENWP (US)
<Yamen.M.Hoque@usace.army.mil>; Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE
(US) <Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Barrowcliff, Gregory J CIV CENWP CENWD (US)
<Gregory.J.Barrowcliff@usace.army.mil>; Wren, Christopher D CIV USARMY
CENWP (US) <Christopher.D.Wren@usace.army.mil>
Subject: FW: South Fork flows

All,

The USFS restoration work in the South Fork McKenzie below Cougar Dam will be completed this afternoon. No additional flow restrictions related to this project. Thanks

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE (US)
<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Jeffrey Ziller <Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us>; Kelly Reis

<Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Cougar flows

hi Chris,

We are supportive of the Cougar flow drop for the fish salvage work to begin in-water work on restoration by USFS in the South Fork McKenzie. We would like to see the ramping down from current high flows to follow RPA maximum rates -- night time rates dropping from the current ~2400 cfs would be approximately 150 cfs drop per hour to stay at or below 0.1 ft/hour. If continuing during daytime, as it gets below 1200 cfs, changing by no more than 200 cfs/hour would stay within the 0.2 ft/hour max rate, as specified in RPA Table 9.2-4. Finally, in the footnote for that table, it does state to avoid a flow volume reduction of more than 50% per hour or, the lesser of 1 foot or 50% per 24 hours. This last may mean more than one days and we understand it may begin tonight. We also understand the resulting flows will go below the minimum for June of 400 cfs.

Thanks for letting us know when it starts, the lowest level expected, and the planned duration, as our understanding is that the drop below minimum is primary for salvage. Once that is completed, redirected flow could return to the June minimum, unless we hear otherwise.

best, Anne

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

From: Kelly Reis [mailto:Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE (US)
<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal <anne.mullan@noaa.gov>; Kelly Reis
<kelly.e.reis@state.or.us>; Jeffrey Ziller
<Jeffrey.S.Ziller@state.or.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Cougar flows

Thanks, Chris.

I spoke briefly with Anne just now.

ODFW's District Fish Staff is coordinating with the USFS on elements of this project and supports the decreased flows to facilitate restoration work.

Do you have an anticipated duration of the lowered flows, and a plan for how the difference in minimum flows from the upper basin will be addressed for mainstem flows?

Thanks for your information.

Kelly

Kelly Reis

Willamette Fish & Wildlife Policy & Program Manager

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kelly.e.reis@state.or.us <mailto:kelly.e.reis@state.or.us>

Final results

The restoration work was completed on August 16, 2018.

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