

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TITLE - 16BCL01 minimum flow
DATE - 22 April 2016
PROJECT - Big Cliff Dam
RESPONSE DATE - 06 May 2016

Description of the problem

Flows below Big Cliff Dam in the North Santiam River were below minimum criteria (1,500 cfs) detailed in the Biological Opinion (BiOp) due to scheduling and operator error. Flows were as low as 1,320 cfs.

Dates of impacts/repairs

18 April to 22 April 2016

Expected impacts on fish

The minimum flow criteria of 1,500 cfs this time of year is to provide adequate flows for spawning winter steelhead.

Comments from agencies

NMFS: As previously noted and requested by NMFS notifications of this kind should identify the reason for the deviation and appropriate steps to be taken to prevent future occurrence.

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

From: Kim Hatfield [mailto:kim.hatfield@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 7:45 AM
To: Walker, Christopher NWP
Cc: Stephanie Burchfield; Mackey, Tammy M NWP
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Blue River flow decrease comments, 16BLU02 MOC

Chris,

Attached are two additional responses to MFRs for 16BCL01 and 16DET01 - I appologize for our delay in providing written comments.

We also note that our previous comment still stands and has been included in our response to the above noted MFRs:

As previously requested by NMFS notifications of this kind should identify the reason for the deviation and appropriate steps to be taken to prevent future occurrence.

Thanks,

Kim

Kim Hatfield
Biologist
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
503-231-2315

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

From: Walker, Christopher NWP
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 11:46 AM
To: 'Ann Mullan'; 'Ann Gray'; 'Bill Parks'; 'Chris Allen '; 'Dan Spear
'; 'Elise Kelley'; Eppard, Matthew B NWP; 'Jeff Ziller '; 'Lawrence
Schwabe'; Mackey, Tammy M NWP; 'Mike McCord'; 'Nancy Gramlich';
Piaskowski, Richard M NWP; Scullion, Mary K NWP; 'Stephanie
Burchfield'; Tackley, Kathryn; Teed, Tina J NWP; 'Tom Friesen';
Traylor, Andrew NWP; Turner, Daniel F NWP; Walker, Christopher NWP
Subject: North Santiam flows

All,
North Santiam flows are currently below the minimum BiOp flow target
(about 40 cfs below BiOp criteria), I am looking into it further to
increase back to the minimum flow and the cause.

I will put together a memo, but wanted to notify folks.

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

Final results

Flows below Big Cliff Dam were increased back to the BiOp minimum of 1,500 cfs. We are examining our processes to ensure adequate quality control procedures are in place when making flow/operational changes. Further, training procedures will be examined and implemented if needed.

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