

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

COORDINATION TITLE - 18BCL02 North Santiam Flows

COORDINATION DATE - 20 March 2018

PROJECTS - Detroit/Big Cliff

RESPONSE DATE - 03 April 2018

Description of the problem

Drier conditions over the winter have caused concern regarding the inability to provide an adequate water supply for temperature management and adequate downstream flows for fish in the North Santiam River this year. This prompted discussions within the Flow Management and Water Quality Team for future flow changes specifically in the North Santiam River for spawning winter steelhead.

The minimum flow listed in the Biological Opinion to accommodate spawning winter steelhead in the North Santiam River is 1,500 cfs starting on March 16. After coordination within the Flow Management and Water Quality Team, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed (see Attachment 1) increasing flows to 1,200 cfs on March 16 that we would reassess with the latest forecast at the end of March regarding future actions. The next Flow Management and Water Quality Team meeting is scheduled for March 28 where this will be determined.

Type of outage/operation

Flows were increased to approximately 1,200 cfs on the North Santiam below Big Cliff Dam on March 16.

Impact on facility

Increasing flows incrementally to 1,200 cfs will increase storage that can be used at a later date.

Dates of operation

March 16-April 19

Expected impacts to fish

Expected impacts to spawning winter steelhead should be minimal as low numbers have been observed over Willamette Falls. However, there is special concern since low numbers of winter steelhead returned last year and lower numbers are returning this year as of March 2018. Winter steelhead tend to spawn in the small tributaries, however, spawning data are limited in the North Santiam River and elsewhere.

Comments from agencies

See Attachment 1

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

From: Diana Dishman - NOAA Affiliate [mailto:diana.dishman@noaa.gov]

Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 3:25 PM

To: Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE (US)

<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal <anne.mullan@noaa.gov>; Elise Kelley

<elise.x.kelley@state.or.us>; Kelly Reis <kelly.e.reis@state.or.us>;
Marc Liverman - NOAA Federal <marc.liverman@noaa.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: WFPOM: 18BCL02 North Santiam Flows

Hi Chris,

NMFS submits the following comments in response to this MOC:

We support the current 1200 cfs flow levels that began on March 16th, and would like to see those continue into April until new information is provided. The opportunity provided by Greg Taylor to see the river at 1200 cfs on March 23rd was an opportunity to see how some normal areas for steelhead and Chinook redds function at 1200 cfs.

The benefits to the incubation and rearing stages and the temperature operations later in the year continue to outweigh the benefits of providing additional spawning habitat at this time, given that few adult winter steelhead have entered the North Santiam so far this year. In some cases more rearing habitat would be available at higher flows, although as with spawning flows this will vary by specific features (e.g., side channels, confluences, etc.) affected by lower flows.

We appreciate future opportunities to coordinate with the Corps and ODFW for changes to flows during or after April.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Diana

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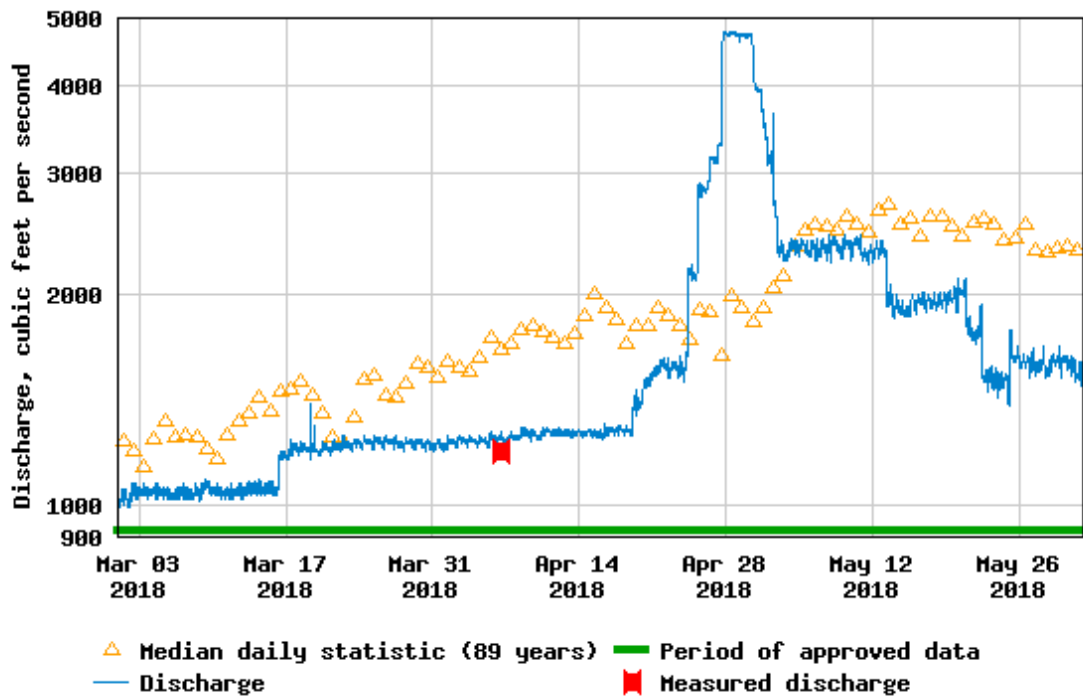
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Final results

Flows were implemented as coordinated.



USGS 14181500 NORTH SANTIAM RIVER AT NIAGARA, OR



Please email or call with questions or concerns.
Thank you,

Chris Walker
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