

20 March 2019

TITLE - 19BCL01 MFR Spawning Flows in North Santiam River

DATE - 20 March 2019

PROJECT - Big Cliff Dam

RESPONSE DATE - 05 April 2019

Description of the problem

As of 20 March, Detroit is 41% below rule curve (21% full). The Detroit / Big Cliff system has been releasing the minimum of 1,000 cfs for rearing and adult migration since 1 February per the Biological Opinion (BiOp). To fill at the rate of rule curve (from 1 March), inflows need to be approximately 1,160 cfs greater than outflow. Since 1 March, inflows have barely been greater than the 1,000 cfs, therefore we continue to lag further behind the rule curve. Forecasts show that there is a very low probability of filling Detroit this year. To balance refill priorities (e.g. temperature management) with priorities for UWR steelhead spawning flows in the spring with Chinook spawning flows in the fall, flow targets are being adjusted adaptively as conditions change regarding refill probability and real time UWR steelhead needs.

The reservoir storage conditions for Detroit and the decision to delay increased outflows for the North Santiam River (below Big Cliff Dam) were the result of discussions with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and others during the Flow and Water Quality Team (FWQT) meeting on 19 March 2019.

Type of change/outage required

Flows for spawning spring steelhead are typically scheduled 16 March to increase to 1,500 cfs as listed in the (BiOp). Based on current conditions, the spawning flow at BCLO was recommended to be managed at the current minimum of 1,000 cfs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), NMFS, ODFW and other partners will meet no later than 22 March, 2019 to assess current and future flow levels during spring for spawning steelhead.

Dates of impacts

16 March – TBD

Expected impacts on fish

Impacts to fish will depend on future flows. This memorandum will be updated to reflect those impacts.

Comments from agencies

See Attachment 1 (comments from NMFS)

Final results

Flow changes will be implemented as coordinated. This will be reassessed and adaptively managed throughout the year and into the fall through the Flow Management and Water Quality Team.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

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