OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

COORDINATION TITLE - 20BCL02 North Santiam Flows
COORDINATION DATE - 09 March 2020
PROJECTS - Detroit/Big Cliff
RESPONSE DATE - 26 March 2020

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 spring Chinook salmon 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 migration and spawning.

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 increasing flows to 1,200 cfs on March 16 and that we would reassess with the latest forecast at the end of March regarding future actions.

Type of outage/operation
Flows will be increased to approximately 1,200 cfs on the North Santiam below Big Cliff Dam on March 16.

Impact on facility
Increasing flows to 1,200 cfs instead of 1500 cfs will increase storage in the reservoir by 600 acre-feet per day. The lower release may allow refill up to the spillway (elev 1541) which will enable operational temperature operations starting June 1.

Dates of operation
March 16 - May 31

Expected impacts to fish
Expected impacts to spawning winter steelhead will depend on future flows. There is special concern since low numbers of winter steelhead have been observed in prior years. Winter steelhead tend to spawn in the small tributaries, however, spawning data are limited in the North Santiam River and elsewhere. Filling the pool to the spillway will allow temperature management operations beneficial to fish.

Comments from agencies
Comments from NMFS, See attachment 1

Please change the word “fish” in the first sentence under Description to “spring Chinook”. Regarding the second sentence ODFW would consider it more accurate to state that “…future flow changes in the North Santiam that could impact winter steelhead migration and spawning”.

-----Original Message-----
From: Hudson, Michael [mailto:michael_hudson@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE (USA)

<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: memo comment/concurrence

Good morning Chris,

Thank you for the reminder. We have no comments on 20BCL02, 20FOS02, and 20WVP0, but support flow changes agreed to between the Corps and NMFS/ODFW.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

mike

Michael Hudson
Fish Biologist/Region 1 Climate Change Coordinator
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-----Original Message-----
From: GRAMLICH Nancy [mailto:Nancy.H.GRAMLICH@state.or.us]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:31 AM
To: Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE (US)
<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: WFPOM: 20BCL02 North Santiam Flows

Hello,

Thank you for the update on the advance planning with the Flow Management and Water Quality Teams for future flow changes specifically in the North Santiam River for spawning winter steelhead, and
the opportunity to provide comment on the MOC. As the Corps enters the third year running for managing all operations at the project as a result of water availability, the regular communication to revisit flows
this season for the North Santiam or other basins is appreciated. Like that for 2018 and 2019, at this time this advance planning also supports interim temperature control operations for 2020.

Regards

Final results
Changes were implemented as described in this memorandum.

Chris Walker
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