

Draft Spring/Summer Update to the 2010 Water Management Plan

Dworshak Dam

Summer Draft for Temperature Control and Flow Augmentation

As of April 26 Dworshak dam was releasing minimum outflow and at elevation 1543.5 feet (full is 1600.0 feet). The official [Corps April final Corps water supply forecast WSF](#) for April—July is 1.4 MAF or 52% of average. Due to lack of snow, especially at lower elevations, the project has a significant chance of not completely filling. Recent models have been inconsistent by how much, if any, Dworshak may miss refill with the key uncertainty being magnitude of spring rain events. The Climate Prediction Center 15 April outlook calls for equal chances for having above normal and below normal precipitation through mid May.

A key operation at Dworshak Dam is to draft cold water from the Dworshak reservoir in July, August, and September to cool water temperatures and provide flow augmentation in the Lower Snake River for the benefit of migrating salmon and steelhead. In-season modeling will be done to provide information to aid in making the decisions of when and how to draft Dworshak. The summer reservoir draft limit is 1,535 ft. This limit determines the maximum draft available for summer flow [\(July and August\)](#) augmentation from Dworshak. [However, in years when Lower Snake River conditions are anomalous \(e.g. high temperatures, etc.\), modification of the target elevation of 1535 ft by August 31 may occur in accordance with the annual Dworshak Operational Plan, as formulated by the Dworshak Operations Board.](#) The Action Agencies will draft Dworshak to approximately 1,520 ft in September. The extension of the draft limit from August 31 into September reflects requirements for about 200 kaf to be held for release as defined per the Snake River Basin Adjudication Agreement.