

CENWP-OD

18 June 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

COORDINATION TITLE - 18WVP04 MFR Willamette mainstem flow target at Salem

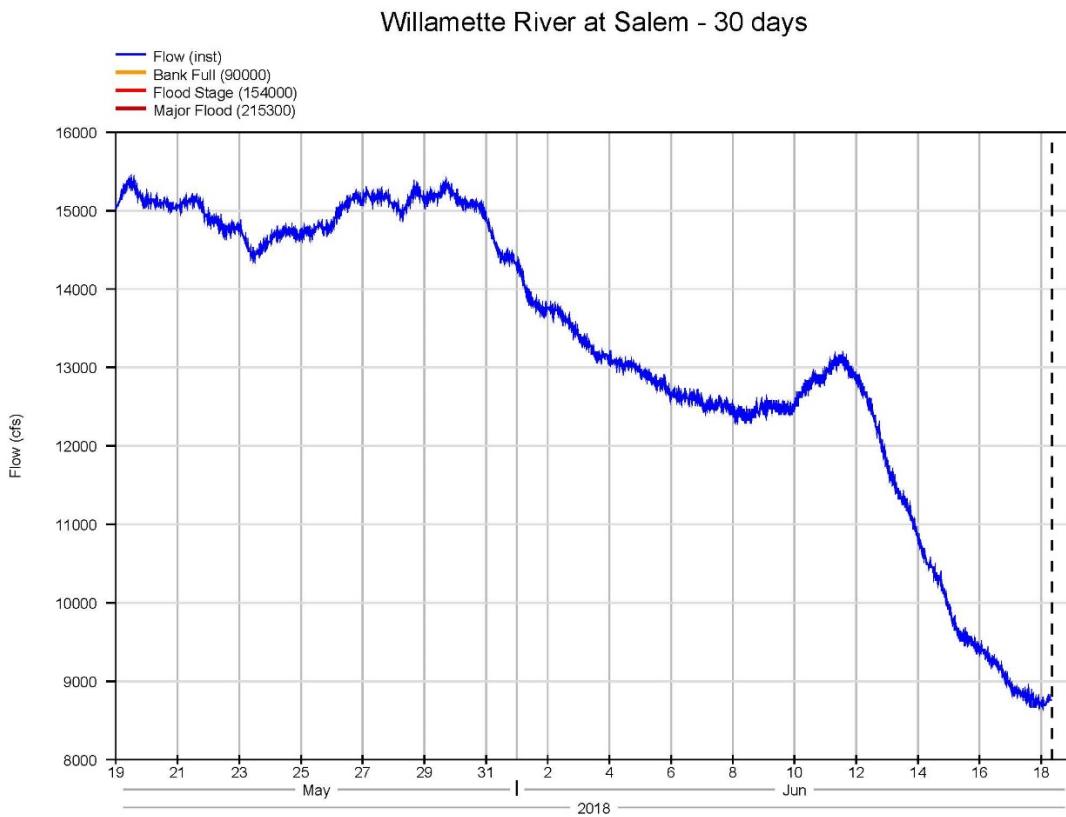
DATE - 18 June 2018

PROJECT - Willamette Valley Projects

RESPONSE DATE - 09 July 2018

Description of the problem

The purpose of this memorandum is to document flows in the mainstem Willamette River that were below criteria listed in the Biological Opinion for the operation of Willamette Valley projects. The minimum flow target for the mainstem Willamette River at Salem was below criteria (13,000 cfs weekly average) beginning in early June as proposed and recommended jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service.



Around June 4, discharge decreased to approximately 12,500 cfs by June 8, then increased and was approximately 13,000 cfs. Discharge then decreased near the target in the BiOp of 8,700 cfs beginning June 15. This operation maintained conditions in Fall Creek for flows and temperatures by passing water through the fish horns to facilitate collection and upstream fish passage at the Fall Creek Fish Facility. If flows were increased in Fall Creek to provide an additional 500 cfs to meet Willamette River mainstem targets at Salem, fish collection and upstream fish passage would have been hindered at the Fall Creek Fish Facility due to cold water passing through the regulating outlet.

Type of change/outage required

The minimum flow target for the mainstem Willamette River at Salem was below criteria (13,000 cfs weekly average) detailed in the Biological Opinion beginning in early through mid-June.

Impact on facility operation

This will conserve some storage at Willamette Valley Projects and facilitate better fish collection and upstream passage conditions at the Fall Creek Fish Facility.

Dates of impacts

June 4-15

Length of time

Approximately 11 days

Expected impacts on fish

Due to this operation, conditions were maintained in Fall Creek for flows and temperatures by continuing to route water through the fish horns to facilitate collection and upstream fish passage at the Fall Creek Fish Facility. If flows were increased in Fall Creek to provide an additional 500 cfs to meet Willamette River mainstem targets at Salem, fish collection and upstream fish passage would have been hindered at the Fall Creek Fish Facility due to cold water passing through the regulating outlet. Minimal impacts to fish in the lower mainstem Willamette River were expected.

Comments from agencies

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 2:00 PM
To: Hart, Salina N CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Salina.N.Hart@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Kelly Reis <Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us>; Taylor, Gregory A CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil>; Walker, Christopher E CIV USARMY USACE (US) <Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil>; Alex Farrand (<alex.farrand@state.or.us>) <alex.farrand@state.or.us>; Brian Cannon <brian.cannon@oregonstate.edu>; Scullion, Mary K CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Mary.K.Scullion@usace.army.mil>; Hoque, Yamen M CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Yamen.M.Hoque@usace.army.mil>; michael_hudson@fws.gov; Mcallister, Kevin Bradley CIV USARMY CENWP (US) <Kevin.B.Mcallister@usace.army.mil>
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: STW redds below Stayton

Hello Salina and others.

I am aware of the efforts to keep spawners moving to Fall Creek, to augment mainstem flows from McKenzie and Middle Fork and with the 100 cfs (not 1000, phew!) extra in each of the Santiams. At NMFS, we also feel the efforts to 'meter' out remaining storage water for later summer and fall minimum flow objectives is desirable since water and air temps are expected to be relatively cool over the next week, while adult Chinook are coming over Willamette Falls and moving upriver.

In consideration of these tradeoffs, we consent to flows at Salem staying at the 12,500 cfs, currently approx 500 cfs below the minimum 7 day average objective of 13,000 cfs begin to decline gradually to the mid- June minimum 7 day average target of 8700 cfs.

We would like to discuss next week on or before the 16th.

Best, Anne

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Chris Walker
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section
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