

OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

COORDINATION TITLE – 20FRN01 Fern Ridge Outflow

COORDINATION DATE – 06 May 2020

PROJECTS – Fern Ridge

RESPONSE DATE – 21 May 2020

Description of the problem

Drier conditions over the winter have caused concern regarding the inability to provide an adequate water supply in the Long Tom River this year. This prompted discussions within the Flow Management and Water Quality Team for a flow change in the Long Tom River.

The minimum flow listed in the Biological Opinion to accommodate native fish in the Long Tom River is 50 cfs in May and June. On July 1 the minimum flow reduces to the summer flow level of 30 cfs. This flow is outflow from Fern Ridge dam. When irrigation withdrawals start the flow target changes to be a minimum flow at the Long Tom River at Monroe gage. After coordination within the Flow Management and Water Quality Team, the CORPS recommended and National Marine Fisheries Service and ODFW agreed to decrease the flow release from the dam to 30 cfs on May 6. Overall this is to benefit recreation so that people have access to the boat ramps all summer and a benefit to irrigation so that there is adequate water to meet demand.

Type of outage/operation

Flows have been approximately 50 cfs during the entire refill season. Flows were then decreased to approximately 30 cfs from Fern Ridge dam on May 6.

Impact on facility

Decreasing flows to 30 cfs instead of 50 cfs will increase storage in the reservoir by 40 acre-feet per day. As of May 6 Fern Ridge reservoir is 62% full and 38% below rule curve. The stored water is used to provide summer and fall flow augmentation to meet the minimum irrigation flow target at the Long Tom River at Monroe.

Dates of operation

May 6 – June 30

Expected impacts to fish

Expected impacts to resident fish will be minimal. Salmon and steelhead do not spawn in the Long Tom River in the spring but they may rear or hold up in the Long Tom during the summer to seek refuge from the mainstem Willamette River.

Comments from agencies

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

From: Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal [mailto:anne.mullan@noaa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2020 3:36 PM

To: WFPOM

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: WFPOM: 20FRN01 Fern Ridge outflow

We have no comment on this. Thanks for sending! -Anne

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

From: Kelly Reis [mailto:Kelly.E.Reis@state.or.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2020 3:43 PM
To: WFPOM
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: WFPOM: 20FRN01 Fern Ridge outflow

Thanks, Chris.

ODFW does not have any additional comments.

Kelly

Kelly Reis

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Final results

Flow changes implemented as described in this memorandum.

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