

CENWP-OD
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

20 March 2019

TITLE - 19FOS04 MFR Spawning Flows in South Santiam River

DATE - 20 March 2019

PROJECT - Foster Dam

RESPONSE DATE - 05 April 2019

Description of the problem

As of 20 March, Green Peter is 16% below rule curve (47% full). Green Peter has been releasing its minimum of 50 cfs since 3 February while Foster remained releasing a minimum of 800 cfs. With the concern of refill and to balance the 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 Green Peter and the decision to delay increased outflows for the South Santiam River (below Foster 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 to increase to 1,500 cfs as listed in the Biological Opinion (BiOp). Since 16 March, flows at SSFO have gradually increased and are currently around 2,000 cfs due to local flows between Green Peter and Foster. Based on current conditions, the spawning flow at SSFO is recommended to be managed to a minimum of 1,100 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 for spring 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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