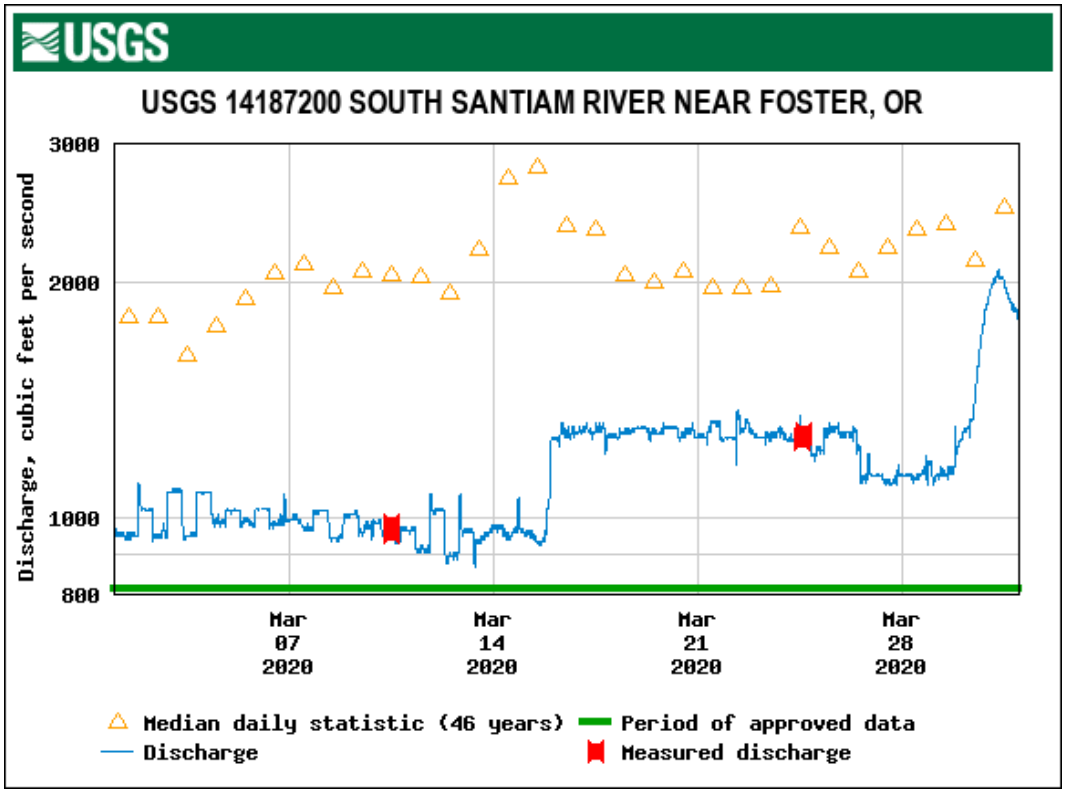
OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

COORDINATION TITLE – 20FOS02 South Santiam Flows
COORDINATION DATE – 09 March 2020 (original) updated 25 March 2020
PROJECTS – Green Peter/Foster
RESPONSE DATE – 30 March 2020

Description of the problem
Drier conditions over the winter have caused concern regarding the inability to provide an adequate water supply and adequate downstream flows for fish in the South Santiam River this year. This prompted discussions within the Flow Management and Water Quality Team for future flow changes specifically in the South Santiam River for spawning winter steelhead.

The minimum flow listed in the Biological Opinion to accommodate spawning winter steelhead in the South 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.

After further discussions and continuation of dry conditions National Marine Fisheries Service proposed decreasing flows to 1,100 cfs on March 26. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will sent a biologist to determine if the connection between the South Santiam River and Wiley Creek is adequate for up-river migrating steelhead are report back to this group. If the connection is inadequate the flows will be increased to 1,200 cfs.



Type of outage/operation
Flows were increased to approximately 1,200 cfs on the South Santiam below Foster Dam on March 16. Flows were then decreased to approximately 1,100 cfs on the South Santiam below Foster Dam on March 26.

Impact on facility
Decreasing flows to 1,100 cfs instead of 1,500 cfs will increase storage in the reservoir by 800 acre-feet per day. As of March 25 Green Peter reservoir is 40% full and 27% below rule curve. The stored water is used to provide summer and fall flow augmentation to meet the minimum Biological flow targets.

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 South Santiam River and elsewhere.

Comments from agencies
NMFS comments, see attachment 1

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-----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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ODFW is sending a person from S. Santiam Hatchery to take pictures of the connection between the S. Santiam and Wiley Creek since they are close by (picture below). ODFW has concerns related to low water levels both for successful migration of winter steelhead particularly into tributaries, and the provision of sufficient water for spawning and incubation. Lastly, NMFS did not propose increasing the flows to 1,200 rather than

meeting BiOp targets.

Final results

Changes implemented as described.

Chris Walker
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