**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR**
**NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

**COORDINATION TITLE -** 22 South Santiam River Flows
**COORDINATION DATE -** 24 October 2022
**PROJECT -** Foster Dam
**RESPONSE DATE -** 22FOS03 South Santiam River Flows

**Description of the problem –** South Santiam River flows were too high to complete the PIT Detection System (PIT antennas) installation at Lebanon Dam.

The 2008 Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Willamette Project issues by the National Marine Fisheries Service requires specific river flows downstream of Foster Dam during different periods of the year to for spawning and incubation of salmon and steelhead in the river reach (NMFS 2008). The river flows for Spring Chinook salmon spawning during September 1 through October 15 are supposed to be maintained at 1,500 cfs (NMFS 2008).

The PIT Detection System (PIT antennas) at Lebanon Dam was scheduled to be installed during the month of September to meet the Willamette Court Injunction requirement to have the PIT antennas installed and operational in 2022. The U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (USACE) coordinated with the City of Albany (owners and operators of Lebanon Dam) for the PIT antenna contractor to complete the installation work during September. The Lebanon Dam Operator would raise (close) sections of the spillway to allow the contractor to install the PIT antennas on that section before moving to the next section of the spillway.

On 12 September 2022, while preparing for the spillway antenna installation, it was observed the river flows were too high and overtopping the section of the spillway that was raised for the installation work. It was not safe nor possible for the contractor to install the PIT antennas on the spillway without reducing the river flows. Fenton Khan (USACE Biologist and Technical Lead for the project) coordinated with Elise Kelley (ODFW) Anne Mullan (NMFS) and Salina Hart (USACE Water Management Chief) with a request to lower the river flows to allow installation of the PIT antennas. Elise Kelley and Anne Mullan both supported lowering the river flows to accommodate the installation work. The river flows were first lowered to 1,300 cfs and it was still too high and overtopping the spillway. The flows were lowered to 1,200 cfs, which was ideal; water was no longer overtopping the section of spillway. Elise Kelley and Anne Mullan both supported maintaining the river flows at 1,200 cfs through 30 September 2022 to allow the contractor to complete the PIT antenna installation on schedule. Salina Hart coordinated with the Foster Dam operations to maintain river flows at approximately 1,200 cfs though 30 September 2022.

The contractor completed the PIT antenna installation on schedule (30 Sept 2022) and the river flows were increased to 1,500 cfs on 01 October 2022.

**Type of operation required -** Reduction of South Santaim River flows from 1,500 cfs to 1,200 cfs during 12 September though 30 September 2022.

**Impact on facility operation -** No impacts to Foster Dam and fish facility operation.

**Dates of impacts/repairs -** 12-30 September 2022.

**Length of impacts/repairs -** 19 days.

**Expected impacts on fish -** Minimal impacts are expected to Spring Chinook salmon spawning in the river reach downstream of Foster Dam.

**Comments from agencies -**
**ODFW**
ODFW appreciates the coordination to conduct this work that will improve our ability to monitor migration and survival in the South Santiam.

**Final results –** Flows were reduced for installation.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.
Thank you,
Chris Walker
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section
Willamette Fish Operations Coordinator
503.808.4316
Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil

Fenton Khan
Environmental Resource Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District
333 S.W. First Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 808-4777
Fenton.O.Khan@usace.army.mil