

## Restoration Administrator Flow Recommendation

**To:** Don Portz, Chad Moore, Emily Thomas, Adam Nickel  
**CC:** Michael Jackson, Rufino Gonzalez, Doug Obegi, Steve Ottemoeller, Ian Buck-Macleod, TAC  
**Date:** June 2, 2020  
**From:** Tom Johnson, Restoration Administrator  
**Subject:** Updated Recommendation for 2020 Restoration Flows

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The following is an updated Flow Recommendation by the Restoration Administrator (RA) for remaining 2020 Restoration Flows pursuant to the January 2020 Restoration Flow Guidelines (RFG), as amended, and Exhibit B of the Settlement.

### **Background**

The current approved Restoration Flow Recommendation (Recommendation) for 2020 is dated April 28, 2020 based on the Restoration Allocation (Allocation) from Reclamation dated April 14, 2020. An updated Allocation dated May 17, 2020 designates 2020 currently as a **Dry** Water Year Type with an Unimpaired Inflow hybrid forecast of 880 thousand acre-feet (TAF), and a current allocation of Restoration Flows of 202.197 TAF as measured at Gravelly Ford (GRF), down from the April 14 Allocation of 211.123 TAF at GRF. The Allocation also specifies certain contractual and operational constraints on Restoration Flow releases for 2020. This is the final allocation for the Restoration flow volume for the spring flow account.

### **Additional Considerations**

At this juncture, the focus of the Restoration Flow release will be to maintain river connectivity, maintain the Millerton Reservoir cold pool for use during the key spawning and incubation months of September through November, and maintain acceptable in-river temperatures for adult spring-run Chinook salmon holding and spawning in Reach 1A from June – November. Since these objectives may place conflicting demands on flow releases, an element of adaptive management (primarily adjustments to river releases in response to weather and water temperature signals) may be required for the next 6 months.

The Fall Pulse may be helpful in maintaining cold river temperatures in October and November or may be pushed to February as per the last two years to provide early spring-run Chinook juvenile/smolt outmigration pulses. Accordingly, this Recommendation shows 2,500 AF in November 2020 and 2,500 AF in February 2021.

As was the case earlier this year, key current seepage constraints that limit flows in the river channel include a limit of 850 cfs in Reach 3 (inclusive of both Restoration Flows and deliveries to Henry Miller Reclamation District), and an estimated total flow limit of about 290 cfs in Reach 4A.

## Recommendation for the Balance of Restoration Year 2020

At this time, I am recommending an updated flow schedule for the balance of the year as shown in Table 1 (changes from the April 28 Recommendation are in red).

With the current Allocation, this Recommendation produces approximately 52 TAF of Unreleased Restoration Flows (URF's, actual amount depending on current accounting of Restoration Flow releases to date), of which 40 TAF have been released for sale to date. **Of the remaining 12 TAF, I am recommending the immediate release of 5.6 TAF of URF's for disposition by the Program.** I will continue to hold back the remaining URF's from sale until at least the June Allocation in the event of drier conditions or the need for additional water for temperature management.

Additional modifications to the fall pulse may be forthcoming later in the summer depending on fish and water temperature conditions.

**Table 1. Summary of Restoration Flow Recommendations for April 16, 2020 through February 28, 2021.**

<i>Date Range</i>	<i>Friant Release</i>	<i>Buffer Flow Release</i>	<i>Restoration Flows at Gravelly Ford</i>	<i>Total Flow at Gravelly Ford*</i>	<i>Target Flow at Sack Dam</i>
May 29 through June 30, 2020	As necessary <b>but not less than 350 cfs</b>	0 cfs	<b>160 cfs</b>	<b>165 cfs</b>	<b>71 cfs</b>
July 1 through July 31, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	<b>170 cfs</b>	<b>175 cfs</b>	<b>81 cfs</b>
August 1 through <b>August 31, 2020</b>	As necessary	0 cfs	<b>175 cfs</b>	<b>180 cfs</b>	<b>86 cfs</b>
<b>September 1 through September 30, 2020</b>	As necessary	0 cfs	<b>185 cfs</b>	<b>190 cfs</b>	<b>95 cfs</b>
October 1 through October 31, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	195 cfs	200 cfs	<b>105 cfs</b>
November 1 through <b>November 22, 2020</b>	<b>As necessary, est. at 430 cfs</b>	0 cfs	<b>310 cfs</b>	<b>315 cfs</b>	<b>214 cfs</b>
November 23 through December 31, 2020	Minimum of 350 cfs	0 cfs	230 cfs	235 cfs	138 cfs
<b>January 1, 2021 through February 6, 2021</b>	Minimum of 350 cfs	0 cfs	250 cfs	255 cfs	<b>157 cfs</b>
<b>February 7 through February 28, 2021</b>	<b>As necessary, est. at 430 cfs</b>	0 cfs	<b>330 cfs</b>	<b>335 cfs</b>	<b>233 cfs</b>

**\*Total Flow includes the minimum Holding Contract flows of 5 cfs required at Gravelly Ford**

Figure 1 below shows the anticipated Flow Recommendation for this year at key locations in the Restoration Area.

**Additional Consultation**

I will continue to coordinate with the TAC, Program Office, and Implementing Agencies to monitor hydrologic conditions, fish population conditions, uncontrolled season releases, operational conditions, and other factors, and will update the Restoration Flow Recommendation as conditions change.

Figure 1: 2020 Restoration Flows, Second Half of Year



