

Restoration Administrator Flow Recommendation

To: Don Portz, Chad Moore, Emily Thomas, Heather Casillas
CC: Michael Jackson, Rufino Gonzalez, Doug Obegi, Steve Ottemoeller, Ian Buck-Macleod, TAC
Date: February 6, 2021
From: Tom Johnson, Restoration Administrator
Subject: Updated Recommendation for 2020 Restoration Flows

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 September 18, 2020 based on the Restoration Allocation (Allocation) from Reclamation dated June 19 May 17, 2020. The final Restoration Allocation issued on June 19, 2020, based on the SJRRP unimpaired inflow forecast of 902 TAF, remained **at 202.197 thousand acre-feet at Gravelly Ford (a Dry year type)**. The Allocation also specified certain contractual and operational constraints on Restoration Flow releases for 2020.

An initial Restoration Year 2021 Allocation dated January 21, 2021 designated Restoration Year 2021 as **Critical Low**, and accordingly allocated 0 acre feet of Restoration Flows. Since that January 21 Allocation, a significant series of storms has occurred, and it is anticipated that the forthcoming Allocation (due out the week of February 8th) will include a **Critical-High** or **Dry** allocation.

Additional Considerations

The Fall Pulse was not needed in the fall months for adult fall-run Chinook migration or for river thermal control in October and November; therefore, the pulse was moved to February to provide early spring-run Chinook juvenile/smolt outmigration pulses. This shift was examined and allowed by a water supply test. That pulse was scheduled for release commencing February 6th, 2021.

Recommendation for the Balance of Restoration Year 2020

At this time, I am recommending an updated flow schedule for the balance of the 2020 Restoration Year as shown in Table 1 (changes from the September 18, 2020 Recommendation are in red).

I anticipate forwarding a Recommendation for the 2021 Restoration Year (March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2022) after receipt of the next Allocation in the coming days.

Table 1. Summary of Restoration Flow Recommendations for February 5, 2021 through February 28, 2021.

Date Range	Friant Release	Buffer Flow Release	Restoration Flows at Gravelly Ford	Total Flow at Gravelly Ford*	Target Flow at Sack Dam (est.)
February 6 through February 8, 2021	As necessary	0 cfs	180 cfs	185 cfs	90 cfs
February 9 through February 28, 2021	As necessary	0 cfs	150 cfs	155 cfs	65 cfs

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

This release schedule will produce a total of approximately 14,100 acre-feet of Restoration Year 2020 URF's (final amount will be determined based on actual flows and river accounting). These URF's are released to the Program for exchange, with the intent that the entire block be exchanged for water that can be released to the river during Restoration Year 2021.

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.