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Subject: Chelan River flows
Date: Friday, May 13, 2016 10:09:12 AM

Dear Chelan River Fishery Forum: An update on flows in the Chelan River. Spill flow of 9,000 cfs was initiated in the Chelan River on Wednesday, May 4, 2016. Spill was reduced to 8,000 cfs beginning Monday, May 9, and reduced to 7,000 cfs yesterday May 12. Spill level will be reduced to 6,000 cfs today and will be held at that level through the weekend. We will reassess new inflow and weather forecasts on Monday, May 16 to direct operations for next week. The reduction in spill level over that past several days was due to the Following:

1. Actual temperatures and inflows did not materialize as forecasted last week;
2. Temperature forecasts have moderated greatly for the next 10 days; and
3. Only moderate precipitation is forecasted for the next 10 days.

We have observed some minor erosion around the log structure (Noah's Ark) at the head of the Habitat Channel. Log jams and boulder clusters in the Habitat Channel appear to be holding in place. We really will not be able to assess damage, if any, until Chelan River flows return to the 80 cfs minimum instream flow level. The forecast for ending spill is projected to be sometime in mid June, but that forecast will likely change between now and then. Once spill has ended, we will likely be providing 320 cfs spring flow through July 15 since water supply was estimated to be near above average levels in the Chelan Basin. The estimated amount of runoff that has come off the hillsides in the Lake Chelan Basin is 48 percent, with 52 percent yet to come. Lake Chelan elevation has actually dropped a bit, from 1097.47 on May 5 to 1096.80 this morning.

Bottom line is the Habitat Channel appears to have "weathered the storm" quite well, to date, but we still have a ways to go. I will keep you updated as events present themselves.

Jeff

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